AmericanGirl

January/February 2001

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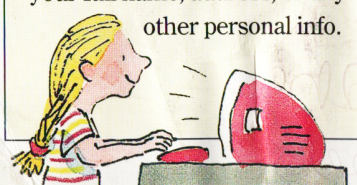
See AG online!

Visit **www.americangirl.com** to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine! Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.



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Lucky you! Here's a play to put on with your friends.

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Are these dolls worth a bundle? This girl will find out at *Antiques Roadshow!*

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American Girl®

Celebrating Girls, Yesterday and Today®

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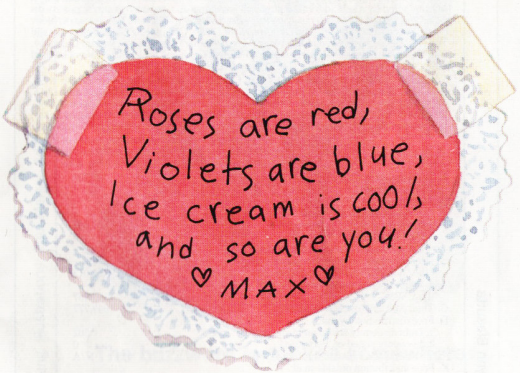
On the Cover
Doris, 12, Kira, 12, Ariana, 10, and Kim, 10, had two days of laughs at our photo shoot! For great ideas on how to have your own super sleepover, turn to page 12.

Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!



Love, Who?
Amelia has a not-so-secret admirer. 10

Cover photo: Raphael Büchler

Letters from You

Winning Team

I liked the "Who's That Girl?" article about Jenny Thompson in your September/October 2000 issue. I swim on the same team as Jenny did when she was younger. She still visits the pool and swims with us when she comes home to visit her family!

Kristiana Concer :-)

Age 13, New Hampshire

Friends till the End

Thanks for the "Friendship Kit" in September/October. My friend went to a new school this year, and I made the kit for her. It helped her through the first week of school!

Alyssa Baker

Age 10, California

Star Power

Thank you for printing "Shining Star." I've been trying to find ways to help others, and these girls encourage me. They are proof that girls can make a big difference in the world!

Allison Daminger

Age 10, New Jersey

Art Lesson

I loved Amelia's drawing tips in "Make a Face" from the September/October issue. I'll still keep my own drawing style, but it's cool to draw like her, too. "Amelia's Notebook" is always great, but this was the best!

Laura Robbins

Age 11, Pennsylvania

Fan Mail

I liked "The Truth About Twins" in September/October. How can I write to Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen? Thanks!

Meghan Sherman

Age 11, Ohio

Send fan mail to 859 Hollywood Way, Suite 412, Burbank, CA 91505. Or visit their Web site: www.marykateandashley.com.

Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

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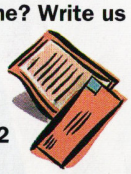

You can also send letters via e-mail to im_agmag_editor.pleasantco.com.

No matter how you write us, be sure to include your name and birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

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1. Outside-county stated on Form 3541	558	562
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Diane Morgenthaler, Publisher

Girls Express

Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

kerfuffle

How to say it: ker-FUH-ful

What it means: a fuss or commotion

Where it comes from: *Kerfuffle* comes from two Scottish words—*cearr,* which means "wrong," and *fuffle,* which means "to become messed up."

One way to use it: "Kia's pet snake caused a kerfuffle when it got loose at the slumber party."

The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl.* Can you find it?

Funny Food

Green ketchup? Mac and cheese—on a stick? We asked girls to test these newfangled foods to see if they're yummy or *yech.*

Green Squeeze

"My friends and I tried green ketchup with french fries. It's cool! When it comes out of the bottle, it looks like green slime. It tastes the same as red ketchup, but the color makes it more fun."

Ali de Leon
Age 10, California

Heinz's EZ Squirt Ketchup is available in grocery stores nationwide.

Noodles to Go

"We tried mac and cheese on a stick at a friend's party. I loved it! We needed an adult to heat it up—if it's not warm enough, it doesn't taste good. It's fun to eat because you don't even need a fork!"

Samantha Brown
Age 11, Pennsylvania

IncrEdibles Macaroni & Cheese will be sold in Wal-Mart Supercenters in early 2001.

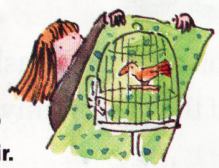
Photos: James H. Young Illustrations: Paul Meisel Additional credits on page 2.

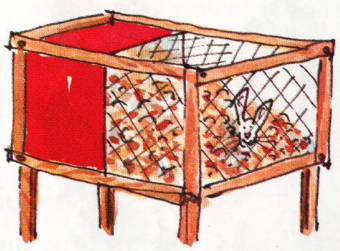
Cozy Critters

Try these tips to keep your furry friends safe and warm this winter:

Bundle up your pup. Doggy coats and sweaters keep small, short-haired pooches toasty warm.

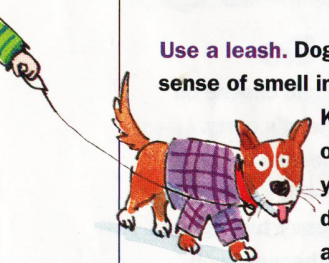
Avoid chilly breezes. Place cages and aquariums away from drafts and windows. Drape a blanket over your bird's cage at night to keep out cold air.





Let your bunny burrow. Put plenty of clean, dry straw or shavings in your rabbit's hutch. Bring your bunny inside if the temperature drops below 20 degrees.

Use a leash. Dogs can lose their sense of smell in snow and ice. Keep your pet on a leash when you walk so she doesn't wander away and get lost.



Give a *pet*-icure. Gently remove snow and street salt from your pet's paws. Rub foot pads with aloe vera or lotion to keep them soft. Finish up with a warm hug!

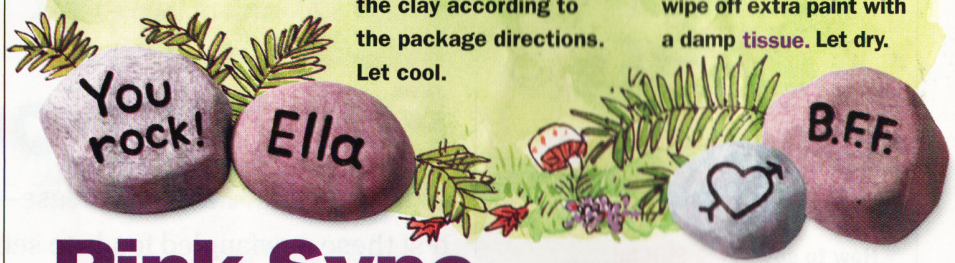
Pocket Rocks

Make a friend a lucky stone.

Step 1 Knead a small piece of Sculpey Granitex clay (available at craft stores) until soft. Mold it into a stone shape.

Step 2 Write a word or draw a simple design deep into the clay with a toothpick. Ask an adult to bake the clay according to the package directions. Let cool.

Step 3 Dab black fabric paint into the word or design with a paintbrush. Don't worry about painting neatly, since you can wipe off extra paint with a damp tissue. Let dry.



Rink Sync

The Ice Cubes do a "Shoot the Duck" circle (above) and a backward parallel spiral line (below).

These Ice Cubes are red-hot! The in-sync skaters from Massachusetts burn up the ice with their flashy footwork. Last winter, they became the national champions in their age group.

In synchronized skating, teams of 8 to 20 skaters must perform the same moves, at the same time, to music. Linking their arms and hands, the girls form a human chain that twirls and swirls across the ice. The Ice Cubes never wear gloves or mittens—they make it too easy for a skater to lose her grip and send a teammate flying!

Skating in sync may be tough, but performing together is what helps these Ice Cubes keep their cool. Meggie Yurkevicz, 12, explains: "It's a lot easier to compete as a team than by yourself."

Cup of Love

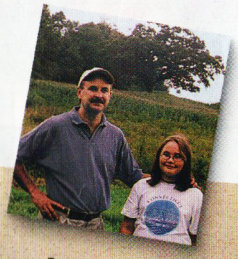
For these Illinois girls, Valentine's Day means Mom and Me Tea. The girls and their moms celebrate each year with a *heart*-y party. "We've done it since I was three," says Melissa Basolo, now 14. "We plan and decorate so much, it's almost like Christmas!" Here are some sweet ways for you to celebrate:

The girls at their first party—and 11 years later!

Play tic-tac-toe using candy. When you're done, eat up!
Mail a letter with the stamp sideways. That says "I love you."
Stick tiny pink gift-wrap bows on a barrette for a friend.
Make and send a free e-gift at americangirl.com.

True Story

Lydia's dad has a *tree*-mendous idea.



Dad, me, and the oak tree!

Dear American Girl,

One day our town librarian told my dad about a new contest. People could design the Connecticut quarter. My dad's an art professor, so he entered, not really expecting to win. He drew our neighbor's white oak tree. The white oak is our state tree.

I watched my dad while he was working on his design, and I thought it was really good. To our surprise, my dad became a finalist!

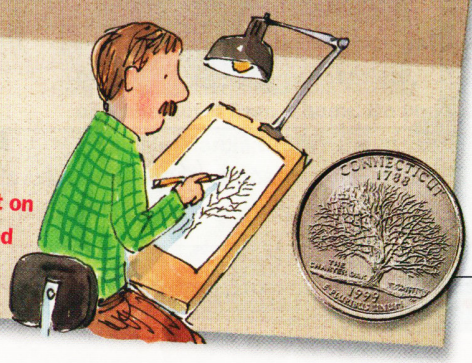
Later we went to a special outdoor ceremony to hear the winner announced. The winning design was on an easel, covered with a sheet of paper. A breeze lifted the top sheet, and we saw my dad's drawing underneath. He had won!

It took more than a year for the U.S. Mint to make the coin. Our family put one in a map that holds a quarter from each state. It's fun collecting all the new coins, but I like my dad's the best!

Sincerely,

Lydia Jones
Age 10, Connecticut

Enter AG's Coin Contest! What would *you* put on a state coin? Would it be silly or serious? Send a colorful sketch to the address on page 2.



AG POLL

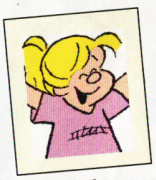
Your answers:

In our September/October 2000 issue, we asked you if you'd like to change your name. The votes were close, but most of you said yes! For names you'd like to have, you mentioned everything from Anastasia to Zoe—even Paisley! Here are your top three choices:

ASHLEY
Victoria
Elizabeth

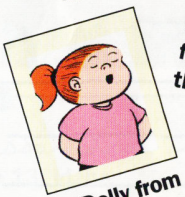
Next question:

Checked out the funny pages lately? Little Orphan Annie has a new look! What other comic strip character would you like to see updated? Circle one.



A. Dot from "Hi and Lois"

B. Margaret from "Dennis the Menace"



C. Dolly from "Family Circus"

What would you change and why? Is there another character you'd choose instead?

Cut out your answers and mail them to us with your name, address, and birth date.

Tricky Doodle

What's a tricky doodle? It's a silly squiggle that makes you smile! Tricky doodles are fun ways of looking at familiar things. Try to guess what this one is. Give up? Answer below.

Send your tricky doodles to the address on page 2.

Answer: Four raisins jumping rope!

Help Wanted!

Do you know a fun way to learn something? Maybe you learned your times tables by jumping rope. Did you make up a crazy song to remember the presidents? Send your silly learning secrets to the address on page 2. Include your name, address, and birth date.

Cut out your answers and mail them to us.

Snowless Snowmen

We asked you to make a snowman without snow. You used everything from sand to rubber bands! Take a peek at these fabulous fake Frostys.

Tennis Tom

Katie Doody
Age 10, Texas

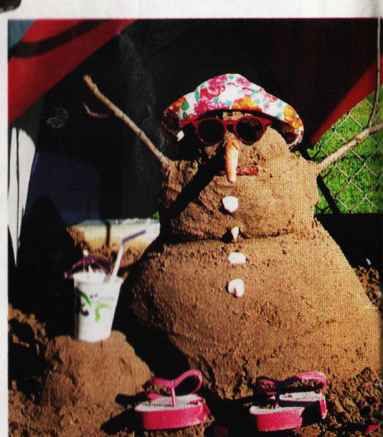
Hay, You!

Caitlin Phillips
Age 14, Oregon

Garden Girl

Julie Francisco
Age 11, Michigan

Sandy



Alexandra Lebenev
Age 12, New York

Zorah Finkenbine
Age 11, Michigan

Spike

Rachel Richardson
Age 12, Arizona

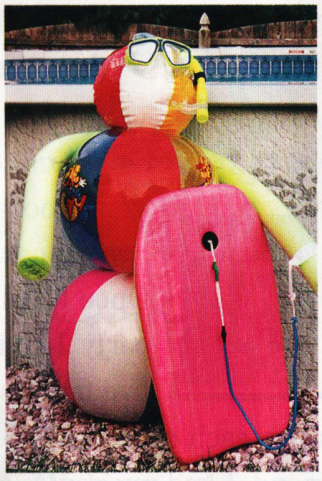
'Mallow Man

Marissa Keener
Age 11, Illinois

Tami Tomato

Hilary Hapgood
Age 9, Ohio

Beach Boy

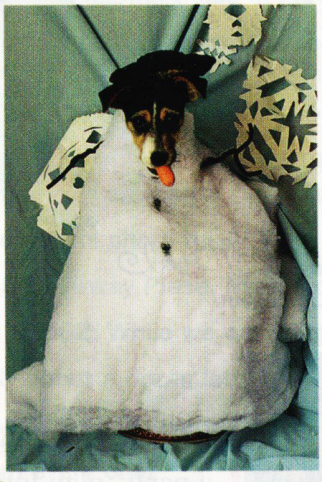


Marissa Ann Regod
Age 10, New Jersey

Stretch

Claudia Farrelli
Age 9, Massachusetts

Fido Frosty



Cassandra Silveria
Age 13, Idaho

New Contest: Famous Look-Alikes

Do you look like someone famous? Maybe it's an actress or athlete, or a character from a book. Do you resemble Marcia Brady? Could you pass for Michelle Kwan's twin?

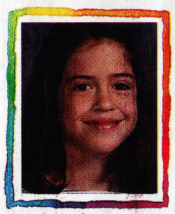
Send your photo with a description of who you look like to the address on page 2. Deadline: February 15, 2001. We'll show the winners in our July/August issue.

Party Smarts

What's the secret to being a great guest or a happy hostess? How can you keep a bash from becoming a kerfuffle?

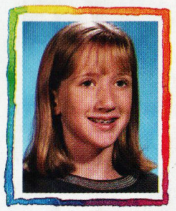
To help people get over feeling shy at the start of a party, play with Silly String outside. You should have rules, like no squirting at people's faces, so that no one gets hurt. It's a great way to break the ice!

Kendra Neal
Age 11, Missouri



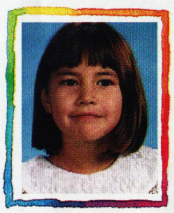
If you're hosting a party, plan lots of entertainment, and you'll have a blast. If you play "Truth or Dare," you should never dare someone to do something you know you wouldn't do yourself. They might get embarrassed, and it isn't very nice.

Nicole Driscoll
Age 10, Massachusetts



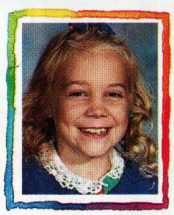
Never make fun of the way someone is dancing at a party. If you do, it will make her self-conscious. You might not be a star dancer yourself!

Mary Kaminski
Age 14, Ohio



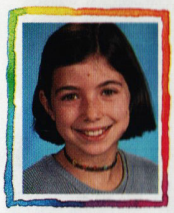
Unless an adult says you can, don't make a funny face when someone's taking a party picture.

Sally Gale
Age 7, New York



To be a great guest, remember your manners. Relaxing at a party doesn't mean it's O.K. to put your feet on the furniture!

Kelly Fosnow
Age 11, Illinois



When you're a guest at a party, try to go along with what the hostess planned. A party is a time to enjoy being with your friends. It's not a good time to fight about who gets the rose on the cake.

Andrea Topalis
Age 12, Connecticut

Once I had a pool party. I invited five friends who knew each other and one new friend. I had my new friend come a few minutes early, and I introduced her to the others as they arrived. It made my friend feel more comfortable.

Renée West
Age 11, Colorado

Illustrations: Laura Cornell

The hostess shouldn't pay attention to one guest and ignore the others. Playing favorites makes one person feel good, but it makes all the others feel bad.

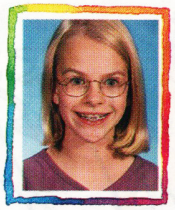
Thea Vittos
Age 10, Kentucky

I was at a slumber party, and we told ghost stories. One girl got really scared and cried. Then she wanted to go home. It wasn't very fun. You should think twice before telling spooky stories at a party.

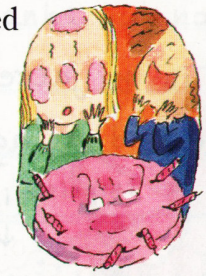
Jill Niederhauser
Age 11, Illinois

I was sitting next to the birthday girl, but she pushed me out of my seat and let another girl sit there. I was really hurt! The next time I have a party, I'll draw names to decide where people will sit. It's a lot more fair.

Elizabeth Dwyer
Age 11, Michigan



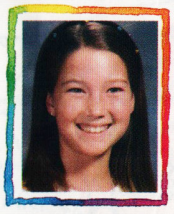
I was at my friend's birthday party, and it was time for cake. My friend said, "Everybody smell the cake!" So we did. I was the closest, so my friend pushed my face into the cake! To be a good hostess, be kind to your guests.



Julie Tucker
Age 12, Illinois

Being a good guest is simple. All you have to do is say "Please," "Thank you," and, the best one of all, "Would you like me to help you with that?"

Ginamarie Guerron
Age 12, New York



If you are the hostess, pair up people who have never met. Give them fun questions to ask each other, like, "What's the silliest fad you ever got into?" Everybody will make new friends.

Dylan Priddy
Age 12, Virginia

When you're at a birthday party, remember: It's your friend's special day. Don't try to snag the attention by saying stuff about *your* birthday party and how great *it* was. Let your friend shine!

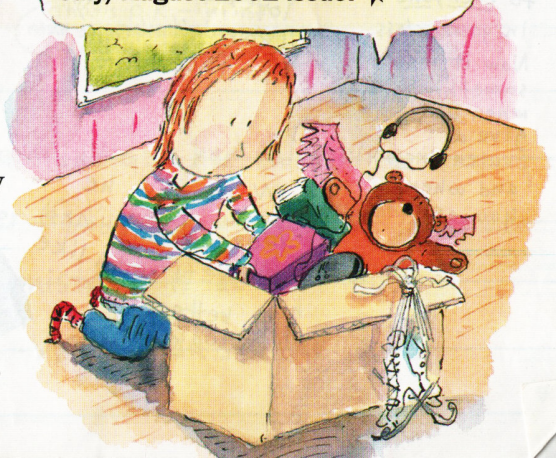
Hannah Moreno
Age 13, California

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Moving. How can you look on the bright side of moving? Is there a way to get rid of moving-day jitters? What can you do for a friend who's moving away?

Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to: American Girl 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562. While we can print only about a dozen letters in each Heart to Heart, we read and learn from every one!

Deadline: February 7, 2001. Some answers will appear in the July/August 2001 issue.



Amelia's Notebook

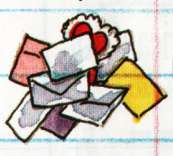
Love, Who?

by Marissa Moss
(and cross-my-heart Amelia)

February 14

When I was little, Valentine's Day was so much fun! It meant getting lots of candy

and lots of cards,

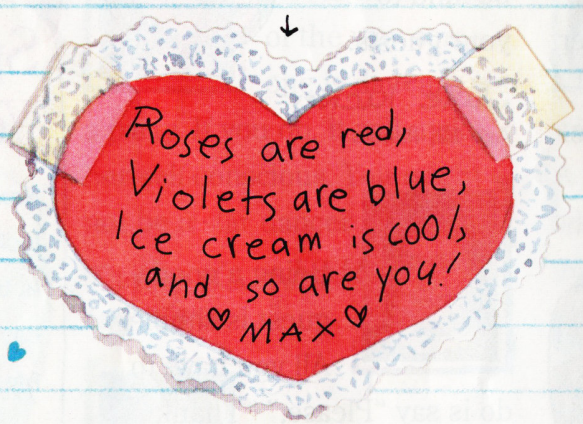


and it didn't matter who gave them to you. Now it's not so simple. You don't give cards to everyone in your class. Now it means something when you give a valentine — and when you get one!

When I put my hand in my jacket pocket at lunch, I found something in it — a pink envelope and a bag of candy!

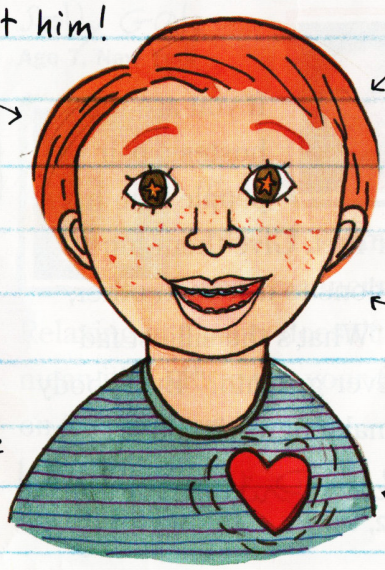
a surprise in my pocket

Little glitter hearts fell out of the card.



A little bag of chocolate hearts was tucked in there, too.

A valentine from Max! I like Max, but I don't like like him. It's nice to get a card, and it's definitely nice to get chocolate, but now what am I supposed to do? I don't want to hurt his feelings. I just don't think of him that way. I mean, I don't think of anyone that way, but especially not him!



hair neatly combed — that's not normal!

stars in his eyes — what's he seeing, anyway?

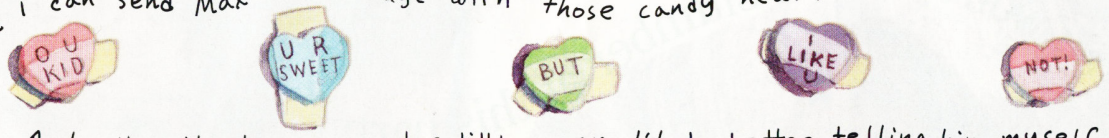
When I see Max, I remember the time he laughed so hard milk shot out of his nose.

heart thumping wildly

Max looked goony and lovesick all day. I couldn't bear to face him.

Normally he looks excited and energetic — I like him better that way.

Maybe I can send Max a message with those candy hearts.

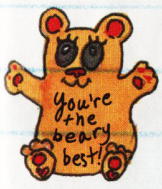


Actually, the hearts sound a little mean. I'd do better telling him myself.

valentine types we know and ♡:

↑ frilly, lacy kind (usually from an aunt or a grandma)

↑ superhero kind (what does fighting crime have to do with liking someone?)



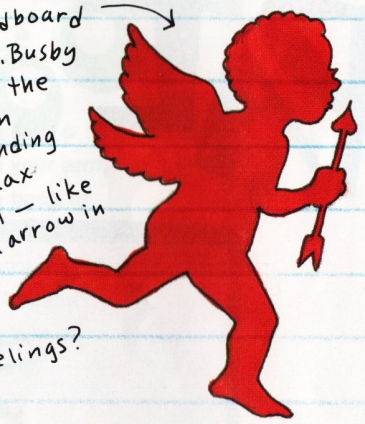
↑ cute, big-eyed animal kind (for people you like but don't like like)

↑ homemade, scrawled-on paper hearts (the kind only a mom — or dad — could love)

February 15

Today Max kept looking at me like I'd suddenly grown an extra head or something. Carly said I've got to talk to him, but I can't even look him in the eye. How do I tell him thanks, but no thanks?

Those cardboard cupids Ms. Busby put up in the classroom keep reminding me how Max must feel — like he's got an arrow in his heart. How can I hurt his feelings?



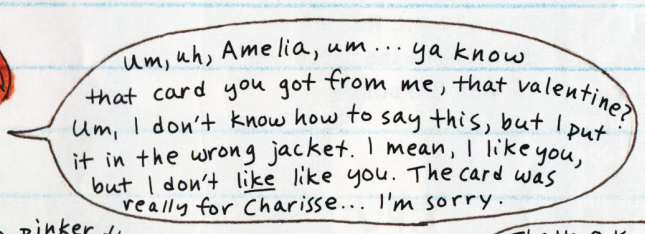
What do naked, winged babies have to do with love anyway? They should at least wear diapers!

February 16

This morning Max was staring at me like something was smudged on my face. That was enough! I decided I had to talk to him. Before I could change my mind, I went up to him, and his face turned bright red. Yikes! It was going to be even worse than I'd imagined. Luckily, he started talking first.

Then Max looked at the floor and not at me at all!

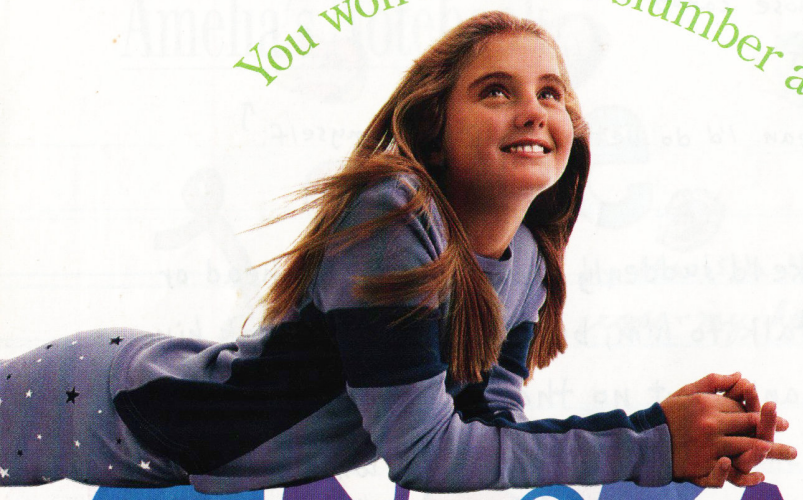
↑ cheeks burning pinker than the valentine


Um, uh, Amelia, um... ya know that card you got from me, that valentine? Um, I don't know how to say this, but I put it in the wrong jacket. I mean, I like you, but I don't like like you. The card was really for Charisse... I'm sorry.
That's O.K. — I'm not mad or anything, but I did eat the candy.

Boy, did I feel relieved!

So it all turned out O.K., except Charisse didn't get her valentine. Now she'll have to wait till next year. I wonder if I'll get a valentine then — a real one, not a mistake. Maybe a mistake is better — you don't have to worry about liking the person... and you still get to eat the chocolate. ★

You won't want to slumber at this party!



SNOOZAPALOOZA!

Come to a sleepover!

Bailey's house
Friday, January 26th
7:00 P.M.

Bring your pajamas, a sleeping bag, and a sock for a craft project!

RSVP
555-7654

INVITATION

Write the party details on a rectangular piece of paper. Cut a slightly larger piece of fleece or felt. Roll up the paper inside the fleece and tie with two strings.

SHUT-EYE SHAKES

Cool, quick, and tasty! In a blender, combine 10 starlight peppermints or ¼ cup red-hots, 3 cups vanilla ice cream, and 1½ cups milk. Ask an adult to help you blend until smooth. Makes three shakes.

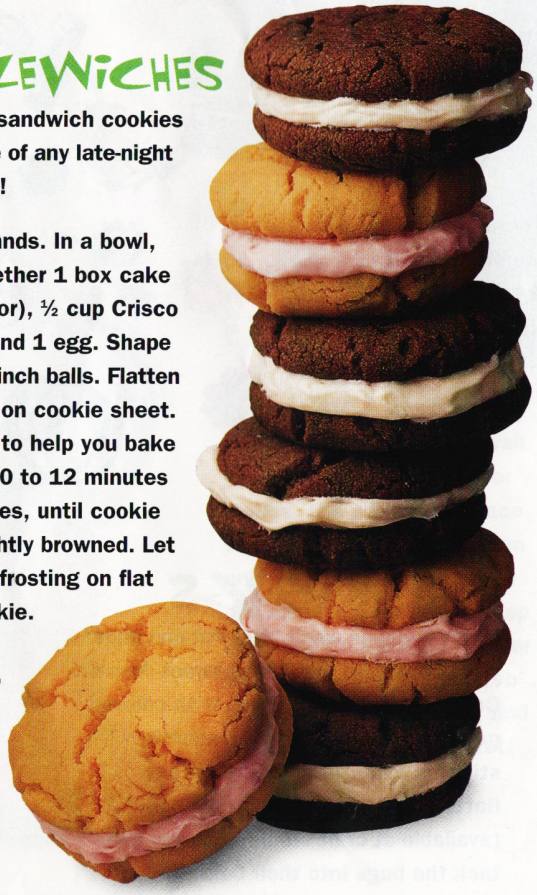
SPARKLE SPOTS

Add a flash of fun with a sparkly design on your arm, your ankle, or the back of your hand. Use a toothpick to dot corn syrup on your skin. Press on tiny flat-backed rhinestones (available at craft stores). Let dry.

SNOOZEWICHES

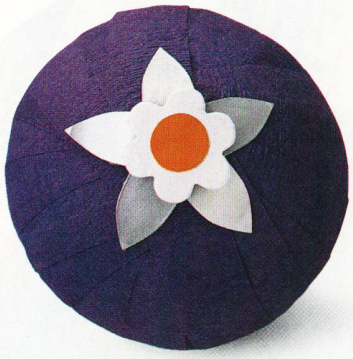
These super sandwich cookies will take care of any late-night snack attack!

Wash hands. In a bowl, mix together 1 box cake mix (any flavor), ½ cup Crisco shortening, and 1 egg. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Flatten balls slightly on cookie sheet. Ask an adult to help you bake cookies for 10 to 12 minutes at 350 degrees, until cookie edges are lightly browned. Let cool. Spread frosting on flat side of a cookie. Add another cookie on top to complete the treat!



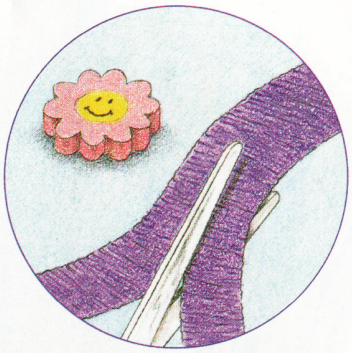
TOP PARTY TIPS

- Choose a quiet room for girls who want to hit the sack earlier than the rest of the party guests.
- Small is better! A group of four or five friends is easier to plan for—and manage—than a big crowd.
- Discuss the party rules with your parents and siblings in advance. What time is lights-out? Which activities can a sibling join in?
- Have plenty of snacks for midnight munchies. Make sure to include healthy choices, such as fruits and cut-up veggies.
- Plan some relaxing fun, like a video or board games, to help your guests settle down before sleeping.
- Turn on a night-light when you turn in so that guests don't go bump in the night on their way to the bathroom!
- Let sleeping girls lie.

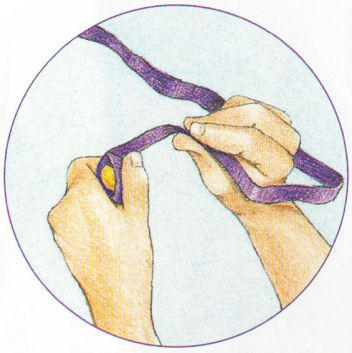


SURPRISE BALL

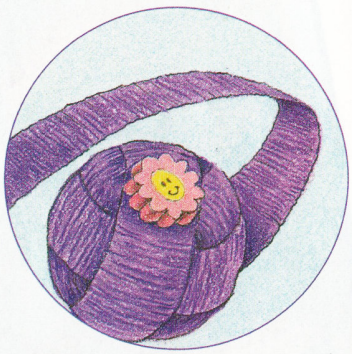
Your friends will have a ball unwrapping these favors!



1 Choose about 15 favors that are small and flat, plus one round favor like a prize capsule. Cut a roll of crepe paper streamers down the middle so that you have two long strips. (One strip makes one surprise ball.)



2 Start with the round favor in the center of the ball. Begin wrapping the crepe paper strip around the favor, stretching the paper slightly as you wrap.



3 Wrap in the other favors as you go, until you get to the end of the strip. Use stickers to secure the end and decorate ball. Take turns unraveling the ball to find the surprises!

DREAMBUGS

These bedbugs won't bite! Put one under your pillow, and you'll have sweet dreams. Cover an empty matchbox with colored paper, and glue in place. Decorate with stickers. Glue tiny googly eyes onto flattened, decorative glass marbles (available at craft stores). Let dry, and tuck the bugs into their box.

If I had a horse

then I would do the hula.

SILLY SENTENCES

Just *try* not to laugh when you read these mixed-up sentences! Each person writes an IF/THEN sentence, such as, "IF I eat a cookie, THEN I won't be hungry." The IF part is written on one strip of paper and the THEN part on another strip. Mix all the IFs together in one pile and all the THENs in another pile. Take turns choosing one strip from each pile and reading the new sentence.

DREAMLAND EXPRESS

Post a "Dreamland" sign at one end of the room. Players start along the opposite wall. Give each player two paper clouds. The object is to race to Dreamland by stepping on only your own clouds. Place one cloud in front of you, step on it, and then place the other one ahead. Step on it, grab the cloud you left behind, and place it ahead of you. First one to Dreamland wins!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, OOPS!

Keep your eyes open for funny film flubs in these videos!

STAR WARS

- During the trash-compactor scene, one of the storm troopers hits his head on the door frame and falls. Ouch!
- Sneak a peek inside R2-D2! When R2-D2 wakes up after he is placed in the sand crawler, watch when he rotates his head. You can see the actor's face through R2-D2's window.
- Look closely at the audience members in the last scene in the movie. Do they seem a little stiff? That's because some are cardboard cutouts!

WIZARD OF OZ

- Dorothy's pigtails change length from scene to scene during the musical number when she meets the Scarecrow. Catch this same hair-raising problem throughout the movie!
- After the Wicked Witch of the West scares the people in Munchkin land, she disappears in a cloud of smoke. Nice trick, but you can see she really sneaks down through a trapdoor.
- After the guard tells Dorothy she can't see the wizard, she tells him her sad story, and he begins to cry. But notice that the tears seem to be coming from his eyebrows, not his eyes!

Midnight Madness

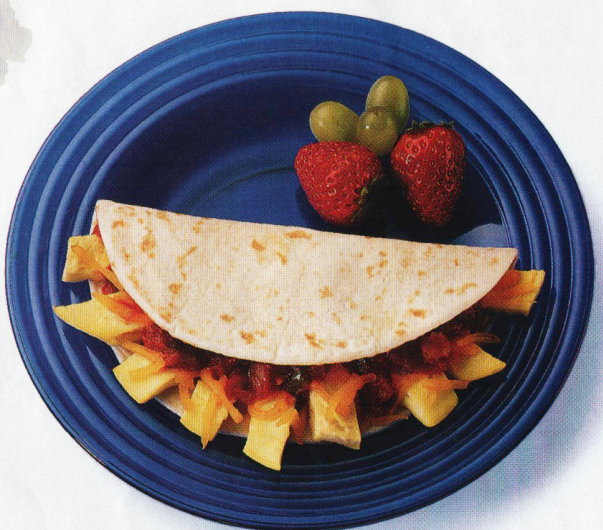
Play this game in the darkest room in the house. Before the party, ask an adult to hide two sets of matching objects, such as stuffed animals, bottles of fingernail polish, or playing cards, around the room. After dark, divide into two teams. Give each team a list of the objects and a flashlight. One person from each team goes into the room with the list and the flashlight, and finds one thing on the list. When she returns with an object, the next player on her team goes in to find something else. The first team to find everything on the list wins!

Giggle Gowns

Be a model or a designer! Divide guests into teams of two. Give each team a roll of toilet paper. Choose one girl on each team to be a model. The other is a designer. Each designer creates a dress on the model using the toilet paper. When the creations are finished, have a fashion show, and then choose a winner!

SLUMBER BUDDY

Ask each guest to bring a sock without a mate to make this funny friend. Cut off the sock just above the heel. Fill the sock almost full with small dried beans, and close the top tightly with a rubber band. Pinch a section in the middle of the sock to make a nose. Secure the nose with a rubber band. Glue on googly eyes and a string mouth. Let dry. To make a hat with the rest of the sock, close the cut-off end with a rubber band and fold up the other end.



SUNRISE TACOS

Here's a reason to rise and shine! Wash hands. In a bowl, beat 8 eggs, ¼ cup water, and ¼ teaspoon salt with a fork. Pour into a shallow microwave-safe dish. Wash hands. Ask an adult to help you microwave eggs for 2 minutes. Stir. Microwave again for 2 to 3 minutes until eggs are no longer runny. Cut eggs into strips, and spoon them onto 6 small tortillas. Add salsa and grated cheese. Fold tortillas in half and eat!

SWEET DREAMS

Give each girl a small notepad and pen to keep by her sleeping bag. Ask guests to write down their dreams as soon as they wake up. At breakfast, just for fun, guess what your dreams might be telling you! Here are five common dreams and what they sometimes mean:

FLYING: You feel confident that you can rise above a problem, or you feel free of something that was holding you back.

FALLING: You are uncertain or fearful. Something in your life feels out of control.

MISSING A CLASS OR TEST: You are feeling unprepared, or you think that too much is expected of you.

MOVING IN SLOW MOTION: You feel as if you can't make a decision.

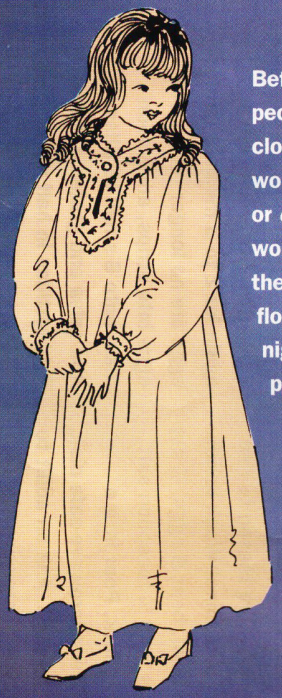
RUNNING A RACE: You believe you have enough confidence and energy to meet a goal.

Photos: Raphael Büchler, Mike Walker Styling: Kathy Aragáki, Megan Bush, Karen Flood, Nikki Wang Additional credits on page 2.

Looking Back

Beauty Sleep

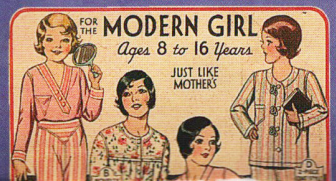
Night-night, sleep tight, pj's from the past are sure to delight!



Before the late 1700s, most people didn't have special clothes for sleeping in. Girls wore the same long white slip, or *chemise*, to bed that they wore under their dresses during the day. In the late **1800s,** floor-length, lace-trimmed nightgowns were thought proper and practical for girls.

Pajamas—sleeping clothes with pants—became popular for men starting in the late 1800s. Soon they caught on with girls and women. By the **1920s,** one-piece pj's were favorites with girls and boys—and many adults, too!

SCHOOLGIRLS' AND MISSES' SIZES
With Feet
38T9368 Light stripes. 83¢
Without Feet
38T9369 — Light stripes.
Ages, 7 to 14 years. State age size. Postpaid.
A much improved schoolgirls' One Piece Sleeping Garment of good quality flannelette, cozy and warm for those cold wintry nights. Drop seat. The thrifty mother should take advantage of this wonderful value.
ALSO WITHOUT FEET



In the **1930s,** pajamas weren't only for sleeping! Lounging pajamas—pajamas people wore around the house and sometimes for a casual night out—were also very fashionable. This ad for girls' pj's shows styles that were popular for women, too. The ad even says, "Just like mother's"!

During World War Two, most man-made fabrics were used to produce military supplies such as parachutes. But by the early **1950s,** new synthetic materials were common in clothes—pj's included. Nightwear made from these fabrics was warm, soft, and easy to wash. It also fulfilled new laws that said kids' pj's had to be flame resistant.

In the **1960s,** the phrase "beauty sleep" took on a whole new meaning! Pretty, flouncy baby-doll pajamas with lacy bloomer bottoms and short nightie tops were popular on the slumber-party scene.

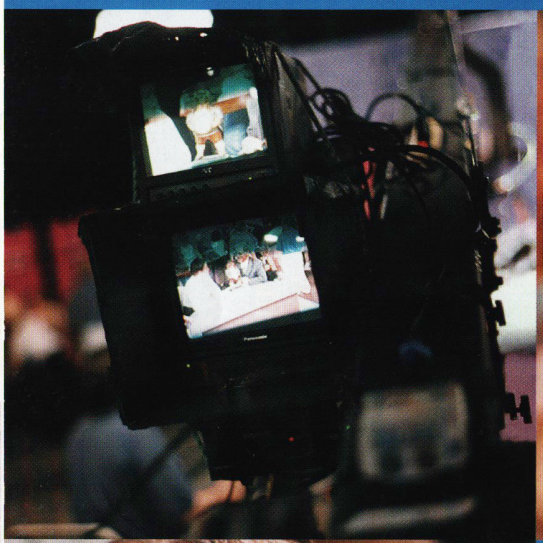
Girls' pajamas of the **1970s** featured bright colors and characters kids liked from books, comic strips, and TV. This T-shirt nightgown was a favorite style of the era.

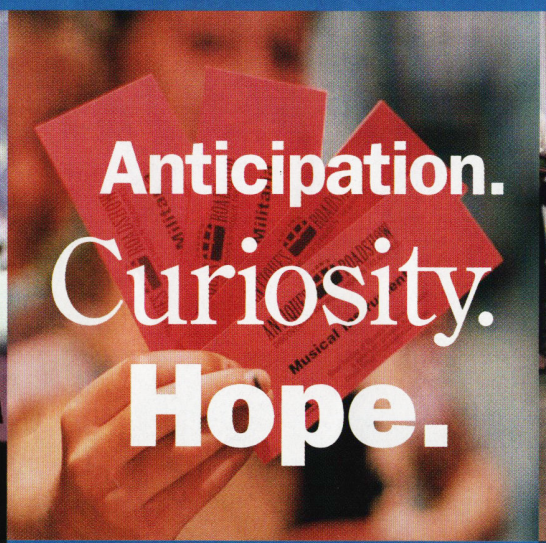
What's today's top trend in girls' nightwear? **Anything goes!** Girls wear whatever they like to sleep in, from **dorm pants** and **T-shirts** to pajamas that actually **glow in the dark** (like those above). Made of flame-resistant fabrics that are softer than ever, today's kids' nightclothes are **cute** and **comfortable!**

Credits on page 2.

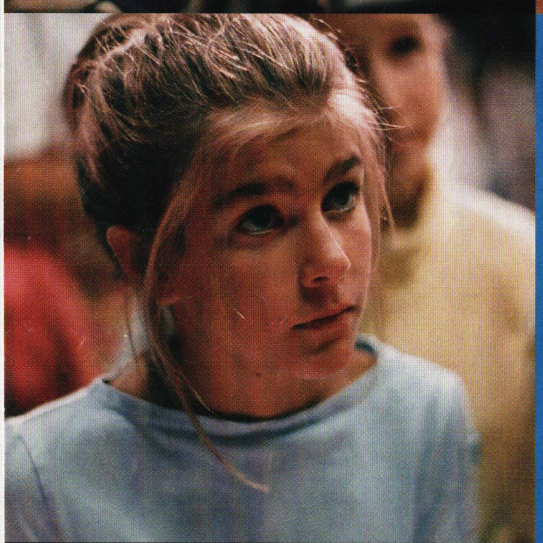
The word *pajamas* comes from *paejama*, a Hindi word for "leg clothing."

T R E A





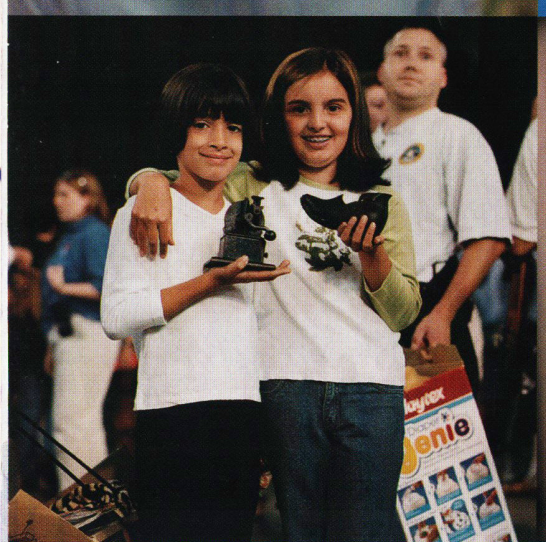
Anticipation.
Curiosity.
Hope.

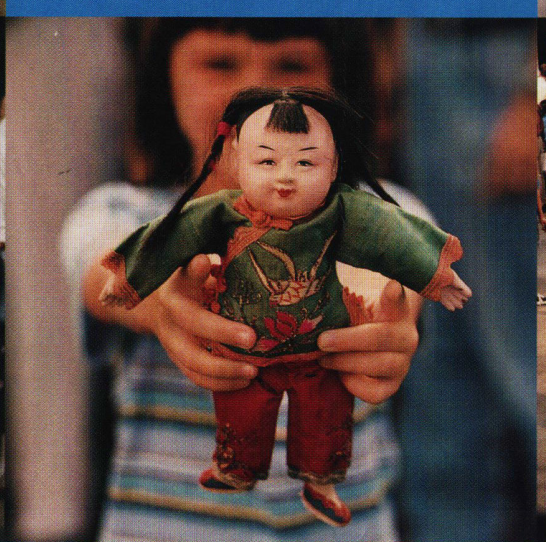


That's what attracts thousands of kids and adults to

Antiques Roadshow,

public TV's hit program all about family keepsakes and garage sale finds.

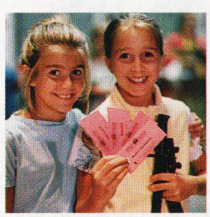




SURE HUNT

Maybe there's an amazing story tucked in a corner of Grandma's basement. Maybe the junk in Uncle Joe's attic isn't junk at all. Can't wait to find out? Then you're just like the thousands of people who bring antiques and collectibles to *Chubb's Antiques Roadshow.* There, kids and adults alike get the chance to show treasures to top antiques *appraisers,* experts who tell people how much money their prized possessions are worth. A few lucky, surprised people even end up on TV!

A Surprise in Disguise



Every summer, the *Roadshow* crew travels all around the United States, stopping in different cities to check out the valuables and mementos people bring in. One weekend late last summer, the show made its way to Boston, Massachusetts.

Beth, 9, Olivia, 10, and their families arrived at the Boston Bayside Expo Center loaded down with a bundle of antiques. Beth carried a sword that belonged to her great-uncle. Olivia had a *bayonet*—the sword from the end of an old gun—that belonged to her grandfather during World War Two. And her arm was wrapped around a *ukulele* (YEW-kuh-LAY-lee), a small musical instrument that looks like a toy guitar. Her grandma bought it at a yard sale. "She told us she spent about $10 for it," Olivia explains, "and she usually only spends a quarter!"

Which item would be the treasure of the day? Olivia and Beth had no idea. Finally, they got to the front of the long line. They showed their stuff to *Roadshow* crew members, who told them which antiques specialists they needed to see. For the sword and the bayonet, they would talk to an expert in military antiques, so they were off to another line. But at the *Roadshow,* waiting in line is part of the fun. That's when the girls had the chance to sneak a peek at the antiques other people toted along. "I saw a man carrying an old newspaper with a headline from when the *Titanic* sank!" says Olivia.

Photos: Michael Warren

Olivia was a bit surprised when the appraiser said that her grandpa's bayonet is worth about $40 or $50. "I thought it was going to be worth a little more," she explains. Then the appraiser looked at Beth's sword. He said it is from the World War Two era—though it wasn't actually used in the war. The sword is probably worth about $150. Both girls were glad to know more about the items from their families' past.

Not disappointed, Beth and Olivia set off for the musical instruments line. Nobody in Olivia's family knew anything about the ukulele, so the girls wanted to find out where it's from and how old it might be.

The musical instruments expert looked at the ukulele with a smile. First, he told Olivia that her grandma's ukulele is more than 70 years old! It was made between 1922 and 1927. He showed the girls how he knew this: the knobs that attach the strings to the instrument were put in by hand, not by a machine. Since the 1930s, most ukuleles

Great Finds

More girls from the Boston *Roadshow* share their treasures with you!

Elena, age 8

Treasure: Elena brought a Native American basket from the late 1800s. The basket, made by the Pomo Indians of California, is decorated with quail feathers and was once adorned with clam shells.

What It's Worth: $800 to $1,000

Robin, age 12

Treasure: Robin has a foot warmer from the 1800s. People filled foot warmers with coal and used them to keep warm while riding in carriages and sleighs.

What It's Worth: $200

Adrienne, age 10

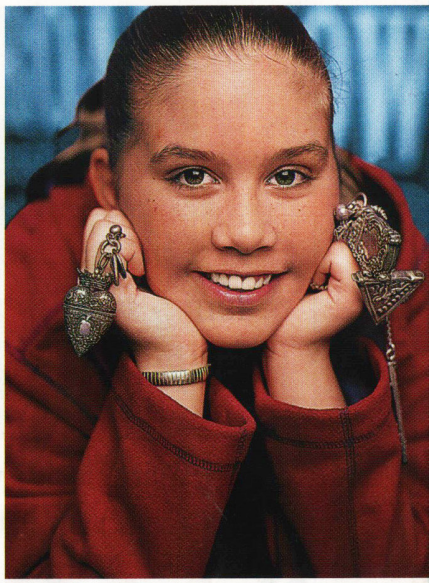
Treasure: Adrian brought three German Steiff dolls from the 1950s. The dolls are characters from a German TV show popular during that era.

What It's Worth: $250 for the collection

have been made by machines. Then the appraiser told Olivia what Grandma's yard sale grab is worth: $300 to $400! The girls were stunned. Olivia's ukulele stood out as the surprise treasure of the day!

Good Things Come in Small Packages

To arrive in Boston in time for the *Roadshow,* Hillary and her family had to wake up at 3:30 in the morning! But when the family got to the front of the line, the appraisers pulled Hillary's dad aside. He was carrying an especially interesting item—a very old German drinking stein. The *Roadshow* crew wanted to tape his appraisal. He might even appear on TV! Hillary and her dad had guessed that their stein was pretty old, but they didn't know much more about it.



While Hillary's dad prepped for the cameras (including having make-up put on so he'd look good under the lights!), Hillary got the expert's opinion on her own treasure: a collection of beautiful antique *chatelaines* (SHAT-uh-lanes). Chatelaines are small, decorative metal containers that women hung from their dresses on chains. Women wore chatelaines in the 1800s, before women's clothing had pockets. "Some chatelaines carried pills, and some had pencils attached to them, or buttonhooks," Hillary explains. "Women used the chatelaines to carry matches, compacts to powder their noses, pictures of family members, and even things like compasses."

Nicole, age 11

Treasure: Nicole brought a very special legal document. This paper, from 1863, actually freed a man who had been a slave. Twenty years ago, Nicole's aunt bought the freed man's paper at an auction for $75.

What It's Worth: $3,000 to $5,000

Carla, age 12, and Samantha, age 8

Treasure: These sisters brought a pencil sharpener from the 1890s and a child-sized shoe from the 1860s.

What It's Worth: A few dollars for the shoe (since its partner is missing) and about $75 for the sharpener

Rebecca, age 8

Treasure: Rebecca showed the appraisers this pretty pair of Chinese dolls from the 1930s.

What It's Worth: $150 to $200 for the pair

Victoria, age 9

Treasure: Victoria has a dancing doll from the 1950s. When it was new, elastic bands moved this oversized doll like a marionette.

What It's Worth: $50

Hillary's chatelaines, which were passed down to her by one of her relatives, turned out to be quite valuable. The gold one, with its intricate, colorful designs, was appraised at $700. And the silver chatelaines were valued at about $100 each. What does Hillary plan to do with her precious collection? "I'm going to save it," she says, "to hand down to my own children."

Stein in hand, Hillary's dad had his moment in the spotlight. Though you might think Hillary's pretty chatelaines are a lot more appealing than her father's stein, the appraiser said the huge, carved ivory mug, made in Germany in the 1800s, is worth $10,000 to $15,000! Was Hillary surprised? You bet. "Just jokingly, we had said Dad would get on TV," she explains, "because he brought the biggest thing!"

But Hillary's joke might just turn out to be true. To find out—and to learn more about other treasures and trinkets from the Boston *Roadshow*—watch the Boston episodes of *Chubb's Antiques Roadshow.* The shows will air on your local PBS station sometime in early 2001.

Take a Look!

Two years ago, when Joanna Mason was 13, she hosted a special show called "Antiques Roadshow Jr." Since her dad's an appraiser, Joanna has been around antiques her whole life. Here's her advice for kids who want to hunt down their own family treasures:

- **Look for things that are rare or unique, not mass-produced. One-of-a-kind or handmade items usually gain value over time.**
- **"Don't be deceived by something that 'looks' old," says Joanna. When you come across an interesting item, go to the library to find out more about it!**
- **Knowing what's valuable and what's not "is all in the eye," according to Joanna. Once you've studied up, trust your judgment.**
- **Family stories are what make antiques valuable to you. You'll always treasure what you know the most about—whether or not it's worth a lot of money.**

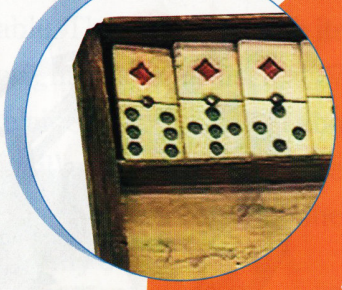
Trash or Treasure?

Take a close look at these antiques. Guess which ones could **fetch a fortune** in an antiques store—and which are cherished just for their **sentimental value.** Turn the page to see if you're right.

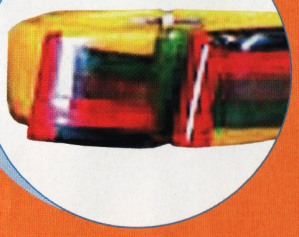
Hummel photo: James H. Young. All other images courtesy *Chubb's Antiques Roadshow*

Answers:

Here's the truth about the treasures!



1 What It's Worth:
$4,000 to $6,000
Why: These ivory dominoes once belonged to a crew member on a whaling ship. More than 150 years later, the current owner still has the box the set came in! Having original packaging almost always adds value to games, toys, and dolls—so keep those boxes.



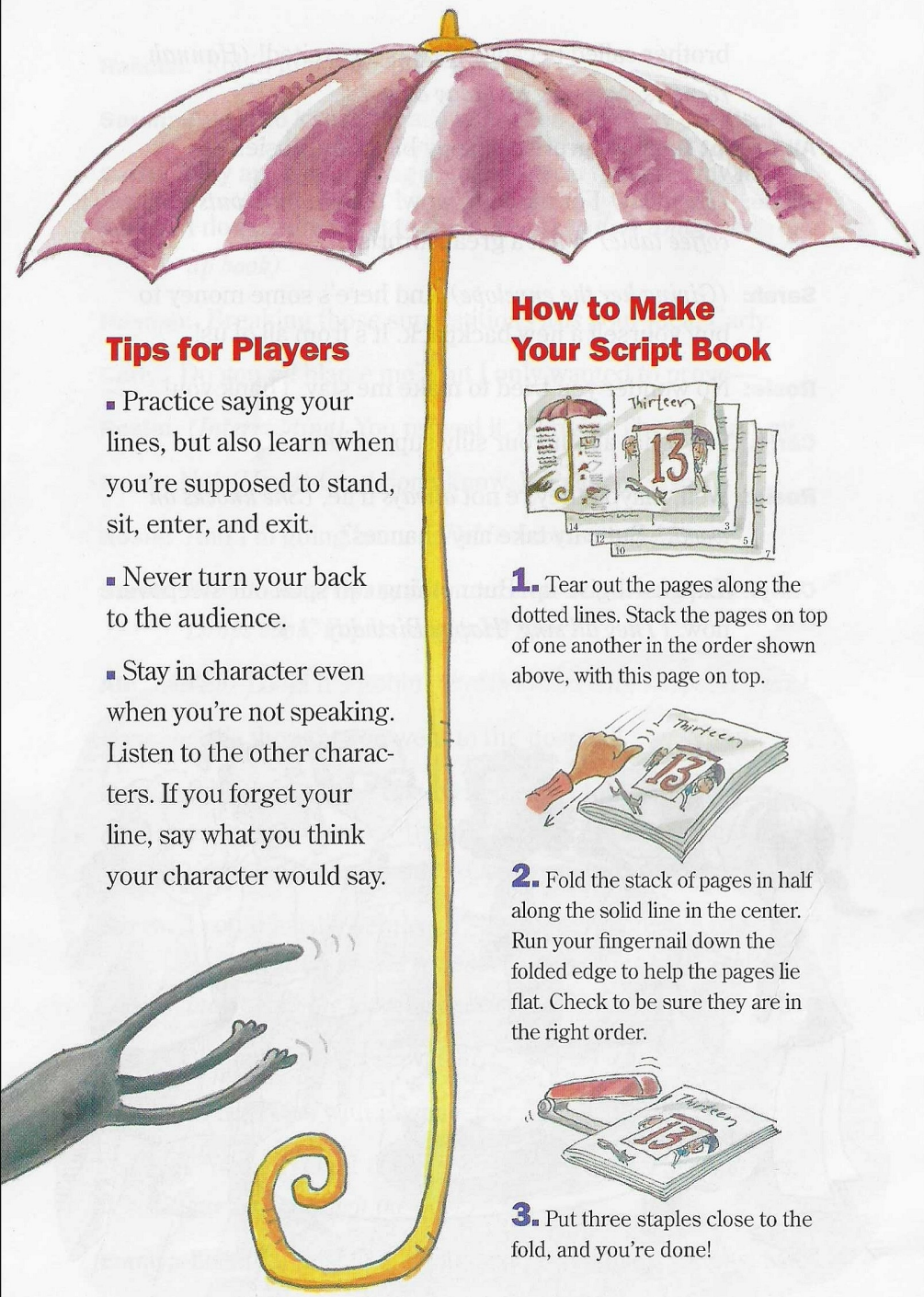
2 What It's Worth:
more than $6,000 for the bracelet alone
Why: When most people think "antiques," they don't think "plastic." But the purses and bracelet are made from a kind of plastic called Bakelite that was produced as early as 1908.

3 What It's Worth:
$10 to $30
Why: Hummel figurines, for the most part, aren't too valuable as antiques. That's because they are very common. Hummel figurines were first produced in 1935. Since then, many, many statuettes have been made in most Hummel styles.

4 What It's Worth:
more than $1,500
Why: The owner of this fire truck, which was made just after World War Two, still has the box the toy came in! Plus, the truck was never played with, so it's in perfect condition. The paint isn't chipped or faded, and the truck has all its original parts. Great condition can add lots of value to antique toys, since most toys are worn from years of play.

5 What It's Worth:
more than $10,000
Why: Even though it looks worn, this bear made in the late 1930s is one of the largest toys that the Steiff company ever produced. Bigger toys are usually worth bigger bucks, since toy companies make fewer large models than small ones.

6 What It's Worth:
more than $20,000
Why: This whirligig—designed to scare crows away from the top of a barn—looks like it could have been made by just about anyone. But that's what gives it value! Carved in New England in the mid-1800s, the whirligig is a piece of American folk art. *Folk art* is art that's made by regular people, not professional artists. The value of folk art is based on how creative and unique it is.



Tips for Players

- Practice saying your lines, but also learn when you're supposed to stand, sit, enter, and exit.
- Never turn your back to the audience.
- Stay in character even when you're not speaking. Listen to the other characters. If you forget your line, say what you think your character would say.

How to Make Your Script Book

1. Tear out the pages along the dotted lines. Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown above, with this page on top.

2. Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat. Check to be sure they are in the right order.

3. Put three staples close to the fold, and you're done!

Tear here

Thirteen

By Anne Coulter Martens

Illustrated by Peter Reynolds

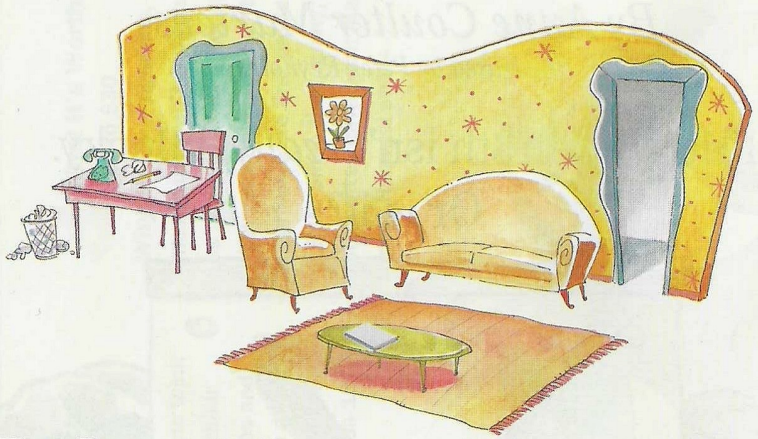
Friday the 13th isn't *really* unlucky. Or is it?

Additional credits on page 2.

Tear here

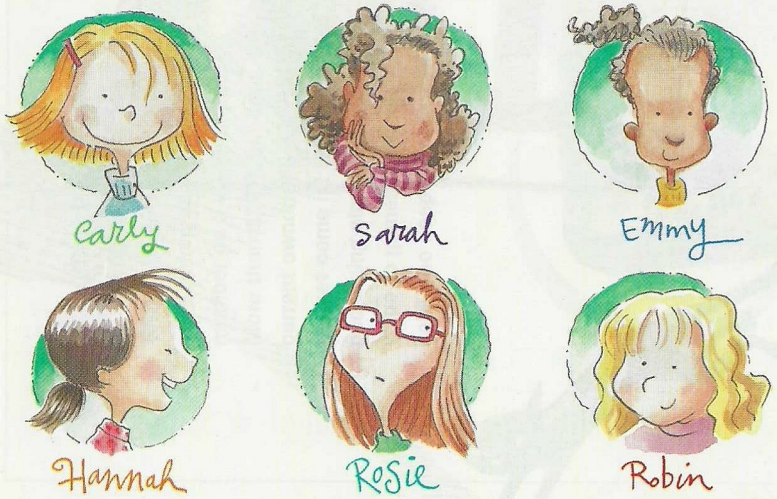
You Will Need

THE SET—You'll need a **desk** and **chair,** a **couch,** a **coffee table,** and an **easy chair.** Arrange the set like this:



THE PROPS—You'll need a **pen,** a **book, sheets of paper, crumpled paper,** a **wastebasket, sleepover gear** for each girl, an **envelope,** a **magazine,** a **cake on a plate,** a **worn-out backpack, scissors,** a **penny,** an **umbrella,** a **new pair of sneakers,** and a **telephone.**

THE CAST—There are six roles in the play.



brother called because he was so excited! *(Hannah reenters, carrying birthday cake.)*

All except Rosie: Surprise! Happy birthday, Rosie!

Rosie: *(Excitedly)* For me? Oh, wow! *(As Hannah puts cake on coffee table)* What a great surprise!

Sarah: *(Giving her the envelope)* And here's some money to buy yourself a new backpack. It's from all of us!

Rosie: No wonder you tried to make me stay. Thank you!

Carly: Now what about your silly superstitions?

Rosie: Well, maybe they're not *always* true. *(She knocks on wood.)* But why take any chances?

Carly: *(Laughs)* I give up. But nothing can spoil our sleepover now. *(They all sing "Happy Birthday.")* ★

Hannah: Robin in the hospital—

Sarah: And who knows what's happened at Emmy's house!

Carly: Why are you looking at me? Do you think it's my fault?

Sarah: I don't know what to think. *(Goes to desk and picks up book)*

Hannah: Breaking those superstitions *was* your idea, Carly.

Carly: Do you *all* blame me? But I only wanted to prove—

Rosie: *(Interrupting)* You proved it, all right. The wrong way.

Carly: No! *(Upset)* Oh, I don't know. I'm all mixed up.

Rosie: And I'm going home. *(Robin knocks on door.)*

Sarah: What now? *(Opens door and steps back in surprise. Drops book. Papers scatter on floor.)*

All: *(Ad-lib)* Look! It's Robin! *(Robin enters with sleepover gear.)*

Hannah: We thought you went to the hospital!

Robin: I did, but why all the excitement? I told you I had an errand to run with my mother. She left some things there for the bake sale. *(Others murmur, relieved.)*

Sarah: I could hardly believe my eyes when I opened the door. *(Starts to pick up papers, then cries out happily, picking up the missing envelope)* The envelope!

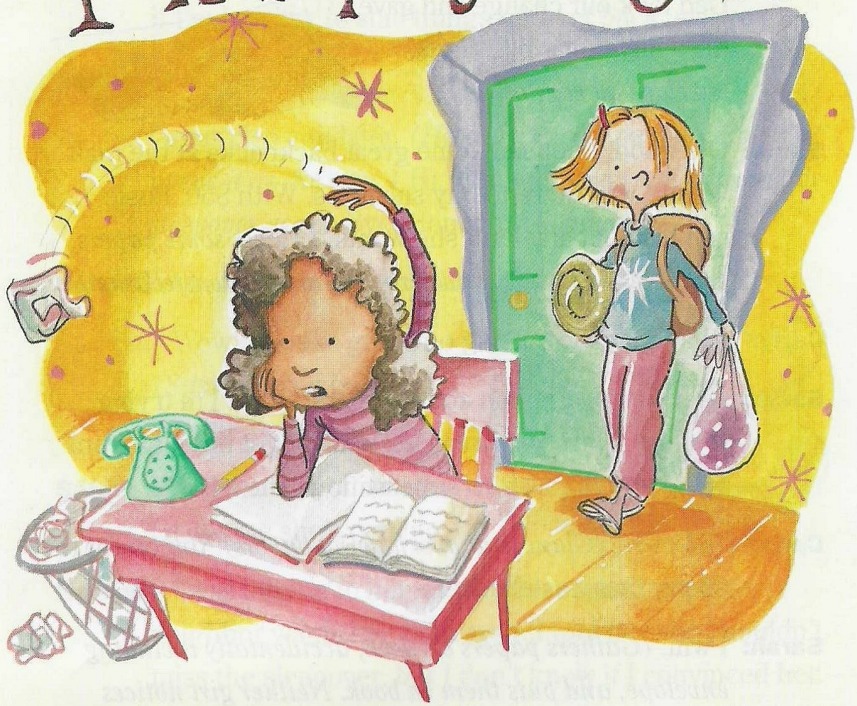
Carly: Our money! Where was it?

Sarah: In the book with my papers!

Hannah: What a relief! *(Leaves room to get cake. Emmy enters, bursting through the door.)*

Emmy: Listen to this! Our cat just had three black kittens! My

Thirteen



Scene: It's Thursday evening. Sarah is sitting at the desk taking notes from an open book. She crumples a piece of paper and tosses it toward the wastebasket, which is already overflowing with papers. Carly knocks at the door.

Sarah: Come in! *(Carly enters, carrying sleepover gear.)*

Carly: Hi, Sarah! Is anyone else here yet?

Sarah: Nope. You're the first, Carly.

Carly: Have you heard from Rosie? She's coming, isn't she?

Sarah: Carly, relax. Rosie thinks this is just an ordinary sleepover. We can't make too much of a fuss, or she'll suspect something.

Carly: I guess you're right. *(Opens sleepover gear)* I brought the money we collected for the gift. *(Takes out envelope)* Dad took our change and gave me a fifty-dollar bill. *(Puts envelope on edge of desk)*

Sarah: Oh, good. I noticed some great backpacks at the mall when I was there to buy sneakers. With $50, Rosie can pick out any kind she wants. *(Moves some papers, crumples one piece, and throws it toward wastebasket)*

Carly: What are you working on?

Sarah: A report for English about superstitions. I'm trying to get it done over break. Actually, I got the idea from Rosie. You know how superstitious she is!

Carly: Do I ever! *(Glances at overflowing papers)* You ought to empty that wastebasket.

Sarah: I will. *(Gathers papers on desk, accidentally including envelope, and puts them in book. Neither girl notices envelope is gone. Robin knocks on door. Sarah stands.)*

Carly: *(Excitedly)* I hope it's not Rosie. The cake's not here yet!

Sarah: If it is Rosie, act natural. *(Carly sits quickly, picking up magazine. Sarah opens door.)* You can stop acting "natural," Carly. It's Robin—with the cake. *(Robin enters, carrying cake on plate. She sets cake on table.)*

Carly: Yummy! *(Moves her finger toward icing)*

Robin: *(Slapping Carly's hand)* Oh, no, you don't! You'll taste that frosting when everybody's here. I have to run. My mother's waiting for me.

Carly: No! There simply couldn't be any connection. You know Sarah burned the papers long before I opened the umbrella. *(Phone rings. Sarah picks it up. Others sit.)*

Sarah: *(Into phone)* Hello? Just a minute, please. *(To Emmy)* It's for you, Emmy.

Emmy: *(Takes phone)* Hello? *(Pauses)* What happened? Tell me! *(Pauses, then hangs up, worried)*

Carly: What's the matter?

Emmy: My brother says I need to go home. *(Exits quickly)*

Rosie: Maybe there was an accident. I warned Emmy not to put those shoes on the table.

Hannah: *(Shivering)* This gives me a very funny feeling.

Sarah: We'll have to call Robin. *(Dials phone, then pauses)* Hello, Mr. Patton, may I speak to Robin, please? This is Sarah . . . *(Startled)* Oh! *(Drops receiver, then turns to others)* Mr. Patton says Robin and her mother just went to the hospital!

Hannah: Oh, no! What's the matter with her? Ask him.

Sarah: *(Into phone)* Hello, Mr. Patton? . . . Hello? *(To others)* He hung up. *(Hangs up phone)*

Hannah: *(Stands)* That's it. I'm going home. *(All girls stand.)*

Rosie: *(To Carly)* Why did you open that umbrella?

Hannah: All our plans are ruined. *(They all look at Carly.)*

Sarah: Our money gone—

Rosie: *(Picks up gear)* Well, it's not funny! Good-bye.

Carly: Wait! *(Puts down umbrella. Rosie pauses. Carly turns to others.)* Should we tell her why we want her to stay?

Others: *(Ad-lib)* Yes! Tell her! Hurry! *(All stand.)*

Carly: First, the envelope. Where did I put it?

Sarah: On the desk. *(Goes to desk)* I don't see it.

Carly: *(Looking)* Neither do I. *(Looks through her gear)* It's not here. Where is it?

Emmy: Look on the floor. Maybe it fell. *(Sarah and Carly, getting agitated, search the floor.)*

Sarah: I can't find it!

Carly: But it has to be here!

Rosie: Why is the envelope so important?

Carly: Oh, Sarah—maybe it fell into the wastebasket!

Sarah: I can't believe it! I burned the papers in the fireplace without looking at them!

Carly: *(Near tears)* All our money—burned! Oh, this is awful!

Rosie: *(Angry, to Carly)* Don't you see? This happened after you opened the umbrella.

Emmy: That's right, it did.

Hannah: I wonder—

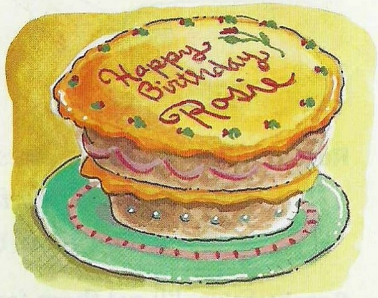
Sarah: Where are you going?

Robin: We have an errand to run. I should be back in time, but if I'm late, try to stall things till I get back, will you?

Sarah: O.K., we will.

Robin: Great. See you later. *(Hannah knocks on door. Robin opens it as she exits.)* Hi, Hannah! *(Hannah enters with sleepover gear.)* Bye, Hannah! *(Robin exits.)*

Carly: Look, Hannah—the cake!



Hannah: Wow! It looks great! *(Sits)* Won't it be awful if Rosie doesn't come?

Sarah: What makes you say that? Of course she's coming.

Hannah: I was talking to her on the phone just now. Her neighbor wants her to babysit. I told her she shouldn't miss the sleepover, but I don't know if I convinced her.

Carly: *(In dismay)* Oh, no—she has to come!

Sarah: I'll go over to her house and talk her into it. *(Rosie knocks on door.)* Come in! *(Rosie enters, carrying worn-out backpack.)*

All: Hi, Rosie! *(Sarah and Carly hurry over to Rosie. Hannah stands quickly in front of coffee table, hiding cake from Rosie.)*

Rosie: What's the matter? Why is everybody looking at me?

Sarah: We're just glad to see you, that's all.

Hannah: And glad that you're not going to babysit.

Rosie: Oh, but I am. *(Comes center, and Hannah moves to hide cake from Rosie. Rosie addresses Sarah.)* I just stopped in to ask if my mom could borrow your scissors.

Sarah: Sure, I'll get them for you. *(Starts to leave room, then stops and turns)* Rosie, *please* don't babysit tonight. We want you at the sleepover. It just won't be the same without you!

Rosie: Really, I hate to miss it, but I need the money. I'm saving for a new backpack. *(Gestures toward her backpack)* This old thing won't last much longer. *(Others exchange glances.)*

Sarah: Carly and Hannah, you talk to her. *(Leaves room)*

Carly: Everyone will be so disappointed if you don't come.

Hannah: Please, Rosie.

Rosie: I *have* to babysit. Our neighbor's counting on me.

Hannah: Can't you get your sister to do it?

Carly: That's a great idea! I'm sure she would. Ask her, Rosie.

Rosie: *(Drops gear and sits)* O.K., but I'll only stay for a little while. I know you think I'm foolish, but I can't help what I believe. *(Emmy reenters, carrying new sneakers.)*

Emmy: Hey, check out Sarah's new sneakers! *(Walks center, pausing beside coffee table)* Aren't they neat? *(Reaches out as if to set shoes on table)*

Rosie: *(Quickly)* Don't do that! *(Stands suddenly)*

Emmy: *(Innocently)* Do what?

Rosie: Never put new shoes on a table. It's bad luck. *(Emmy sets shoes on table.)* Oh, you've done it! Something bad will happen. Just you wait.

Emmy: I don't think so. *(Rosie goes toward door. Emmy sits.)*

Rosie: Let's not talk about it. I'm leaving.

Carly: *(Stands and picks up umbrella)* Don't forget your umbrella. It's such a nice one. *(Raises it as if to open it)*

Rosie: Don't open it!

Carly: I want to see how it looks. *(Opens umbrella)* Bad luck? *(Holds umbrella over her head and saunters about)*

Rosie: Stop it, Carly! You're doing these things on purpose!

Carly: You're right, we are.

Hannah: We just wanted to prove that these things don't really bring bad luck.

Rosie: Sorry, but I'm not staying. I'll just use the bathroom, and then I'll go. *(Leaves room)*

Sarah: *(To all)* Think of something—quick! *(Leaves room, following Rosie, as others stand)*

Carly: Even if we tell her the surprise, she might not stay.

Hannah: *We* know thirteen isn't unlucky.

Carly: Maybe we can prove that to Rosie. Are any of you the least bit superstitious?

Others: *(Ad-lib)* No way! Not me.

Carly: Then let's put some common superstitions to the test.

Emmy: I've heard it's bad luck to put new shoes on a table.

Carly: Sarah just bought a pair. See if you can find them, and put them on the table! *(Emmy leaves room.)* What else?

Hannah: *(Paces, then points at umbrella)* Rosie's umbrella!

Carly: *(Laughing)* Poor Rosie! I'll open it in the house.

Hannah: Rosie will see that she has good luck anyway.

Carly: And that should cure her of all these silly superstitions.

Hannah: Carly, you're a genius. *(Sits. Sarah reenters.)*

Sarah: *(Anxiously)* Do you have any ideas? *(Sits)*

Carly: Plenty! *(Sits. Rosie reenters and picks up her gear.)*

Rosie: Well, I'm on my way. Sorry I'll miss the sleepover.

Carly: You don't have to leave this minute.

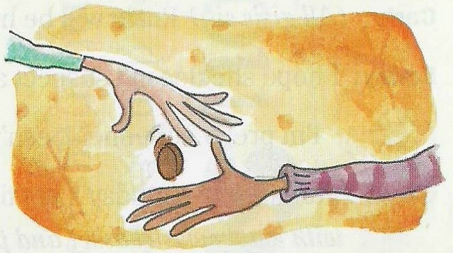
Rosie: Well, all right. *(Sarah reenters with scissors.)*

Carly: *(Happily, to Sarah)* Rosie's coming tonight!

Rosie: *If* my sister will take over the babysitting job.

Sarah: Oh, I'm so glad. *(Hands scissors to Rosie)* Here you go. Take them home, and then hurry back with your stuff!

Rosie: Just a minute. *(Takes penny from her pocket)* Here.



Sarah: *(Takes penny)* A penny? What for?

Rosie: Because you're giving me something with a sharp edge. They say it keeps away bad luck. *(Knocks on wood)*

Sarah: Listen to you—pennies, knocking on wood! You're so superstitious, Rosie.

Rosie: Maybe I'm just careful. *(Laughs)* Thanks for the scissors. *(Hannah continues to hide cake from Rosie.)* Hannah, you've been giving me the strangest looks.

Hannah: *(Uneasily)* Have I?

Rosie: Is there something going on that I don't know about?

Hannah and Carly: *(Together)* No!

Sarah: *(Quickly)* Of course not, Rosie. *(Anxiously)* You will come back, won't you?

Rosie: I hope so. See you later. *(Exits with backpack)*

Hannah: *(With a sigh of relief)* That was a close one! *(Picks up cake)* I'd better get this out of here. *(Leaves room)*

Tear here

Sarah: *(Picking up wastebasket)* I'm going to empty this. *(Starts to leave room as Emmy knocks on door)* Could you get that, Carly? *(Leaves room. Hannah reenters.)*

Carly: *(Opening door to Emmy)* Hey, Emmy!

Emmy: *(Enters, carrying sleepover gear)* Hi, guys.

Carly: *(All girls sit.)* Rosie will be here pretty soon.

Emmy: I hope she doesn't suspect anything.

Hannah: I'm pretty sure she doesn't.

Carly: After all, her birthday's not till Saturday. *(Sarah reenters with empty wastebasket and places it next to desk.)*

Sarah: Hi, Emmy. *(To all)* Remember, we won't say a word about Rosie's birthday until Robin gets here. Then Hannah can bring in the cake, and we'll yell, "Surprise!" *(Rosie knocks on door.)* Shh! *(Calling)* Come in! *(Rosie enters, carrying sleeping bag, backpack, and umbrella.)*

Rosie: Hi! *(Others greet her.)* My sister put up a stiff fight, but I won!

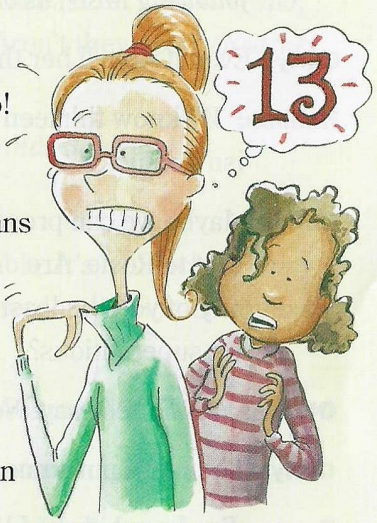
Hannah: Hey, why the umbrella? It's not supposed to rain.

Rosie: That's why I carried it.

Carly: *(Puzzled)* Say that again?

Rosie: I just put my hair up, and I want it to stay looking nice. You know how if you don't carry an umbrella, it always rains—and if you do carry one, it never does.

(Leans umbrella against desk) Anyway, I'm glad to be here instead of babysitting. I've been so busy over break that I don't even know what day it is. Today's Wednesday, right?



Sarah: No, silly! It's Thursday.

Rosie: *(Suddenly very upset)* Oh, no!

Sarah: What's the matter?

Rosie: If today's Thursday, that means tomorrow's Friday the 13th! I'm sorry, but I can't stay. *(Rosie knocks on wood)*

Emmy: *(Upset)* Oh, Rosie, come on.

Rosie: *(Upset)* I shouldn't have even come. As I was crossing the street, a black cat ran across my path.

Hannah: I like black cats.

Rosie: I don't. *(Shivers)* My grandmother knew a woman who fell and broke her arm after seeing a black cat.

Carly: Because she tripped over the poor animal?

Rosie: No! *(Annoyed)* You don't believe me.

Carly: I certainly don't think the black cat had anything to do with it, or that thirteen's an unlucky number.

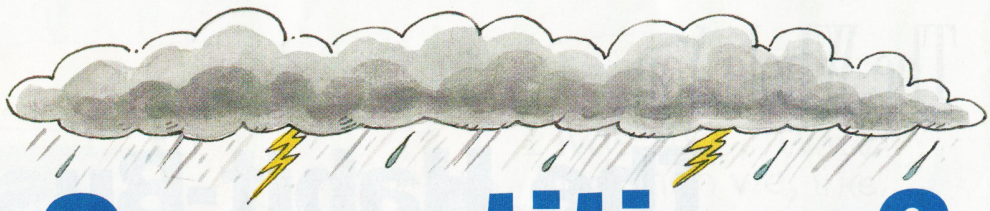
Rosie: But it is!

Sarah: *(Cheerfully)* I'm not worried.

Carly: Really, Rosie, nothing will happen.

Emmy: Nothing bad, anyway. Maybe even something good.

Quiz



Are You **Superstitious?**

You don't believe everything you've heard about what brings good luck and bad luck—or do you?

1. You are walking to school. About how many cracks in the sidewalk have you stepped on?

a. How should I know? That's a silly question!

b. None. I want to protect my mother's back.

2. Suddenly, a black cat slinks out of the bushes and starts running toward you. What do you do?

a. Oooh, cats are so cute! I stop and pet it.

b. I run away!

3. You walk past a house with a really goofy-looking wishing well on the lawn. What happens next?

a. I have a good laugh.

b. I have a good laugh, but I throw in a penny, too.

4. You see Tonya at school. When the bell rings, you both say, "See you later, alligator!" What do you say next?

a. "After a while, crocodile!"

b. "Jinx!"

5. You have an important test today. What's in your pocket?

a. A list of facts to review at lunch.

b. My notes, a four-leaf clover, and my pink troll. Plus, I'm wearing my lucky underwear.

6. You pass a cemetery on the way home. What do you say?

a. "Look at that old headstone!"

b. Nothing. I can't talk because I'm holding my breath.

According to one superstition, a cat sneezing is a sign of rain.

Answers

If you answered mostly **a**s, you're not superstitious. Sometimes you'll play along with a superstition just for fun, but you don't truly believe in it.

If you answered mostly **b**s, you're superstitious. You believe what you hear about luck, even if it isn't logical. The truth is, the best "luck" comes from hard work and trying your best. ★

Illustrations: Peter Reynolds

The Habit-Buster

HALL OF FAME

Do you nibble your nails or twirl your curls?
Try these tips from girls who kissed their bothersome habits good-bye!

"I used to bite my nails when I watched TV. Now when I watch TV, I do crafts like beadwork. That helps me leave my fingernails alone."
Courtney :-)
Age 13, Georgia

"I paint my nails beautifully. Then when I start to chew on them, I decide they're too pretty to bite."
Katy :-)
Age 10, Massachusetts

Or . . .

- Wear gloves or mittens at home.
- Dip your nails in lemon juice. The sour taste should remind you not to chew.

"I played with my hair a *lot*. I decided I'd get myself a small treat every day that I didn't do it. Soon the habit was gone!"
Leah :-)
Age 12, Washington, D.C.

"I tried talking in front of a mirror with my hands behind my back. After a while, I got used to leaving my hair alone!"
Skye :-)
Age 12, New Jersey

Or . . .

- Pull your hair back in a ponytail.
- If you're *really* having trouble quitting, try a shorter haircut. There'll be less hair to twirl, and you might like the new look!

Illustrations: Norm Bendell

"I used to crack my knuckles so much that I didn't even realize I did it. Then I decided to stop. I held a pencil or a rock in my hand. Every time I was about to crack my knuckles, I'd see the object and remember not to."

Barbara :-)
Age 12, North Carolina

"I cracked my knuckles all the time. Then I decided to make a game out of seeing how many hours I could go without cracking them. Before long, I could go for days without doing it. It really helped!"

Sarah :-)
Age 12, Massachusetts

Or...

- Stick your hands in your pockets for 60 seconds.
- Notice when other people crack their knuckles. Hearing that annoying *pop* may help you stop.

"I said *like* a lot. I wanted to stop because I've started babysitting, and I want to sound mature. So every time I said *like,* I put a quarter in a jar that my mom got to keep. It didn't take me very long to break the habit!"

Katharyne :-)
Age 13, Illinois

"I used to say *like* a lot. Then my sister helped me stop. Every time I said it, she would go, 'Beep!' It got so annoying that I broke my habit."

Lise :-)
Age 11, New York

Or...

- Tape-record a conversation so that you can hear yourself talk.
- Think ahead. Plan what you want to say before you say it. Don't be afraid to leave pauses while you think.

In an online poll, AG readers named nail biting as their number one bad habit.

JUST DO IT! Experts say there are five steps to breaking a habit:

1. **Make up your mind.** If you don't really want to stop, you won't.
2. **Act today.** Ashley, 12, of Florida says, "Don't try to stop tomorrow or the next day. Stop now!"
3. **Write down how you think you'll feel and act once your habit is gone.** Will dropping the *um*s, *like*s, and *y'know*s make you feel more confident? Stating your goal in black and white will make it seem more real.
4. **Ask friends to help.** Have them send you a secret signal, like a wink or a tap on your shoulder, to remind you to stop.
5. **Hang on for three weeks.** It takes about 21 days to break a bad habit—or to start a good one. When you reach your goal, celebrate!

Dip

Chocolate fondue

A Swiss tradition says that if you drop food in the fondue pot, you have to kiss the person next to you.

Use a fork for dipping treats such as fresh fruit, canned pineapple or mandarin oranges, angel food cake, dried

in!

is fun to do!

Photos: Mike Walker Styling: Kathy Aragaki Illustrations: Toni Goffe

Choose the fondue recipe you want to make from the list at right. Combine all the ingredients in a microwave-safe bowl. Ask an adult to microwave ingredients for 30 seconds. Stir. Microwave for another 30 seconds. Stir well. If chocolate isn't melted, continue to heat, but stop and stir mixture every 15 seconds until chocolate is just melted.

Orange Chocolate Dream

Creamy chocolate with a dash of fruity flavor!

1½ cups semisweet chocolate chips
2 tablespoons butter
¼ cup orange juice

Heavenly Chocolate

This fondue is divine warm or cold.

1½ cups semisweet chocolate chips
3 tablespoons sour cream

Peanut Butter Kiss

Two flavors made for each other!

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
¾ cup chunky peanut butter
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons sour cream ★

For forkless fondue, try vanilla wafers, graham crackers, cookies, pretzels, and potato chips! apricots, French bread, marshmallows, and pound cake.

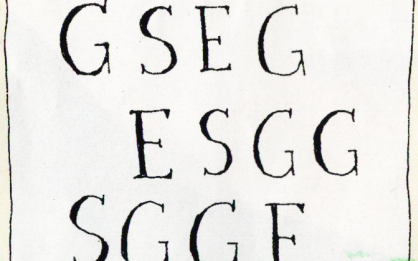
The Giggle Gang

Brain Food

To sort out the Giggle Gang's mixed-up menu, guess what foods are hidden in these images.

1.

2.



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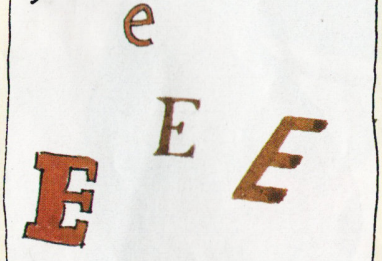

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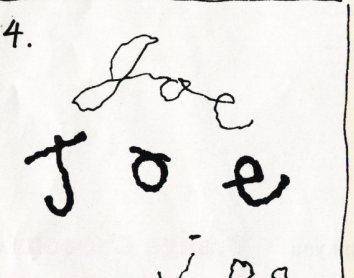

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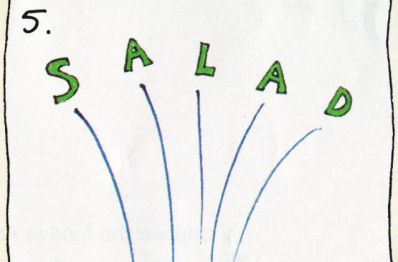

6.

7.

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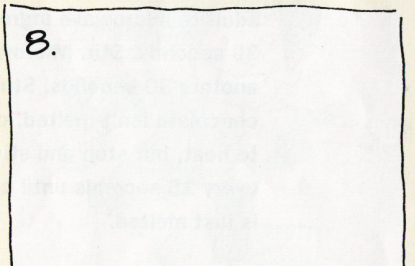

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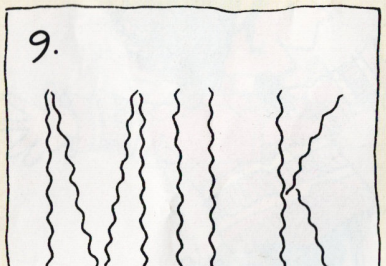


All answers on page 42.

Why did George Washington sleep sitting up? Because he couldn't lie. Katie Riehle, Age 11, Wisconsin

What do you call a truck full of bison? A buffa-load! Sonia Pond, Age 12, Minnesota

What did the vampire take for her sore throat? Coffin drops! Maggie Cox, Pennsylvania

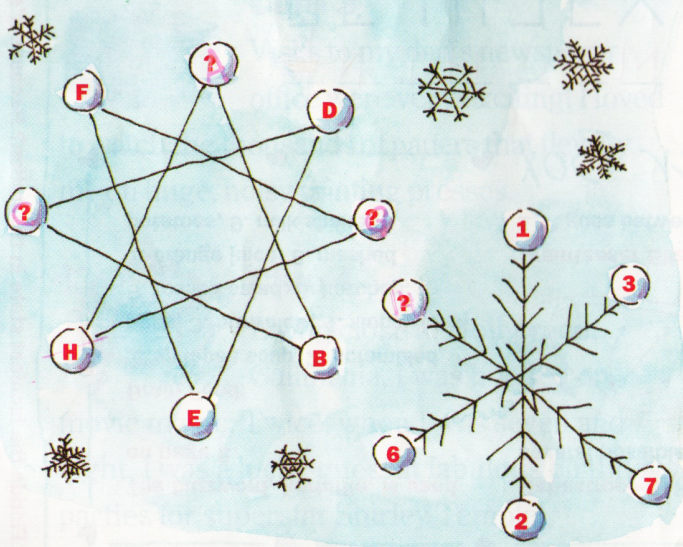
What kind of hair does a match grow? Sideburns!

Cat-astrophe!

The cat show is over, and the Giggle Gang girls are ready to go home with their pets. Draw a leash to match each cat with its owner. Here's the catch: you can't cross any leashes or they'll get tangled!

Brainteaser Blizzard

Replace the question marks to complete the patterns on these two snowflakes.



Valentine's Magic

Becky Whitaker, 13, of Michigan, came up with a cool math problem you can use to fool your friends this Valentine's Day!

Have a friend do these calculations on a scrap of paper:

1. **Choose any number.**
2. **Multiply that number by** 2.
3. **Add** 42.
4. **Subtract** 14.
5. **Divide by** 2.
6. **Subtract the original number.**

You guess the number your friend ends up with—no matter what number she starts with, the answer is always 14.

Illustrations: Paul Meisel Puzzles: Rachel Cianci and Rick Walton

What's pink, has a curly tail, and lives in the rain forest? A piguana! Julia Miller Age 10, Minnesota

What city has the cleanest streets? Washing-ton, D.C. Sarah Schofield Age 11, Maryland

Why does the Statue of Liberty stand in New York Harbor? Because it can't sit down! Sydnee Wilson Age 11, California Julie Warren Age 11, Massachusetts

The Giggle Gang

Moxie!

This card game will keep your mind moving.

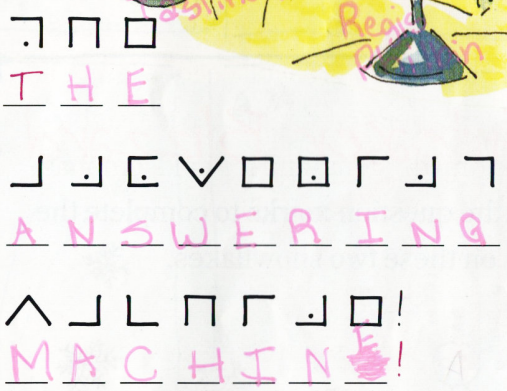
You need 4 to 6 players and a deck of cards.

1. **Deal out the entire deck of cards.**
2. **The player to the dealer's left begins by placing a card in the center.**
3. **If the next player to the left has a card that matches the first card (a queen, for example, if the first player's card is a queen), she places it on top of the first card and says, "Mix!" If she doesn't have a match, she says, "Pass."**
4. **The next player to lay down a match says, "Max!"**
5. **The third player to lay down a matching card says, "Moxie!" and starts a new round by laying down another card. The other players now must match the new card.**
6. **The first player to get rid of all her cards wins.**

AG Code

Use the decoder to answer this riddle sent in by Katherine Bossardet, age 12, of Connecticut.

Who should you call when you want to ask a question?

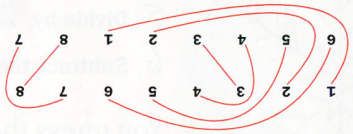


Answer Box

Brain Food: 1. split-pea soup, 2. scrambled eggs, 3. brownies, 4. sloppy joes, 5. tossed salad, 6. ketchup, 7. orange juice, 8. mashed potatoes, 9. milk shake

The buzzword, kerfuffle, is used on page 8.

Cat-astrophe: Here's one of several possible solutions.



Brainteaser Blizzard:

1. A goes between F and D, G goes between D and B, and C goes between H and F. If you go from letter to letter in alphabetical order, you form a star.
2. 14. Each even number is double the odd number directly across from it.

AG Code: The answering machine!

What kind of car did the cow drive? A Cattle-ac! Nikki Patrikalakis, Age 9, Massachusetts

What do snakes do after they have an argument? They hiss and make up! Kristen Bonnicksen, Age 11, North Carolina

Why is Florida the funniest state in the nation? Because it's a pun-insula! Sarah Lester, Age 12, California

How did the mermaid call home? She used her shell phone! Emma Young, Age 9, Colorado

Why does Daisy sit in the palm tree when she drinks her hot chocolate? Because she is a cocoa-nut! Carly Bushong, Age 12, California

Who's That Girl?

Here's an American girl of yesterday. Read the clues about her and guess who she is now.

Clue 1

As a girl, I loved to make things with scissors. I cut out lots of red paper hearts to make fancy valentines for all the kids in my class. I played for hours with my cutout paper dolls, too.

Clue 2

A street corner near my house was a great place for a lemonade stand. My mother's card table, a pretty tablecloth, handmade signs, and ice-cold lemonade gave me an early taste of business success.

Clue 3

Visits to my dad's newspaper office were very exciting! I loved to watch the thousands of papers that flew by me on huge, noisy printing presses.

Clue 4

Living close to Hollywood, California, I was hooked on movie magic. Twice, when I was seven and eight, I was a lucky guest at fabulous birthday parties for superstar Shirley Temple!

Here I am at age seven.

Clue 5

Once my dad brought me a bag filled with hundreds of spools of thread—each a different color. I was thrilled! I spent hours playing with them, mixing and matching colors and making pretty patterns.

Take a guess!

When this American girl grew up, she became:

- □ a journalist
- □ an actress
- □ a businesswoman
- □ a fashion designer

Turn the page and find out if you're right!

Illustrations: Laurie Caple

She's Mrs. Grossman

Andrea Grossman's early passion for colorful cutouts and designs still sticks with her today. Mrs. Grossman's Paper Company makes more than 15,000 miles of stickers a year!

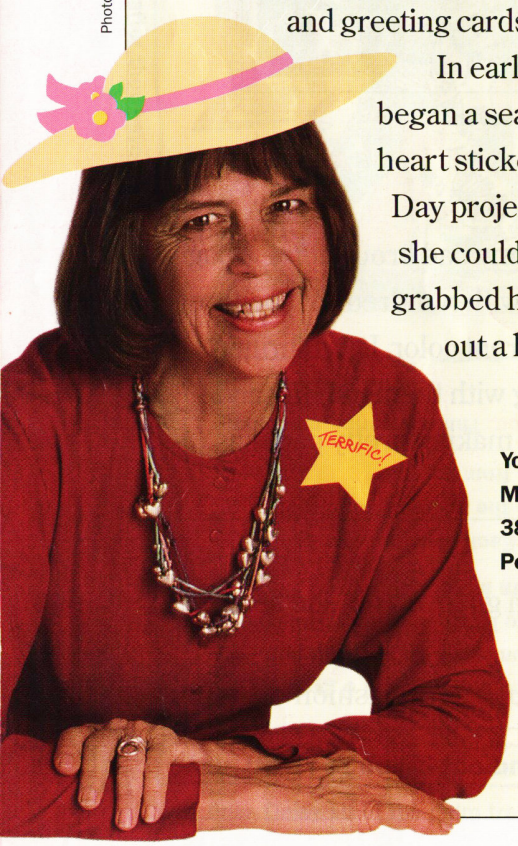
"I always loved creating art, and my parents encouraged that. Before I could talk, my mother taught me all the colors," Andrea recalls. "By age ten, I knew that I wanted to be an artist." She studied illustration in school, and her talent led her to a job designing stationery and greeting cards.

In early 1979, Andrea began a search for the perfect heart sticker for a Valentine's Day project. Frustrated that she couldn't find one, she grabbed her scissors, snipped out a heart shape, and sent it to a label maker. Soon, she had rolls of bright red heart stickers. Andrea's dream career was born, and today her company produces over 550 styles of stickers—including 30 different hearts!

Andrea with her dog, Beau

Andrea's company keeps printing presses running 20 hours a day, five days a week, just like the news presses she remembers from her dad's office. A new sticker takes about six weeks to produce, from the first drawing to its final printing. Inspiration comes from everywhere, including from her employees' dogs, who are welcomed to her office every day. This winter, watch for new stickers of two favorite canines: Andrea's dog, Beau, and his daddy dog, Angus.

Andrea is also inspired by the world around her. "I love to look at nature," she says, "where all the colors go together perfectly!"



You can write to Andrea at:
Mrs. Grossman's Paper Co.
3810 Cypress Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954

Andrea's advice to American girls:
"Always look into your heart to see what matters and what is important to you. Focus on that."

Andrea Grossman

Photo credits on page 2.

Treasured Tunes

Pretty Picture

Sugar and Spice

A Favor for Fido

Straight from the Heart!

These coupons, inspired by Mrs. Grossman's stickers, are lovely valentine tokens to give to your family and friends!

See instructions on back.

FAR OUT
DREAM GIRL
WHY NOT?
WOW
SWEET HEART for a day
LOVE YOU
OK
HUG ME
SWEET

Beauty Queen

How do I love thee?

ha
Heart-y Laughs

Sealed with a Kiss
S. W. A. K.

Lovely Lunch

Good for one sweet treat to eat.

To:

From:

Good for a work of art . . .

created by me—just for you!

To:

From:

This coupon entitles you to borrow one of my favorite CDs for one week.

To:

From:

FAR OUT

WHY NOT?

This coupon is GOOD for a day FREE of complaints and frowns from ME. TODAY, I promise only SMILES.

To:

From:

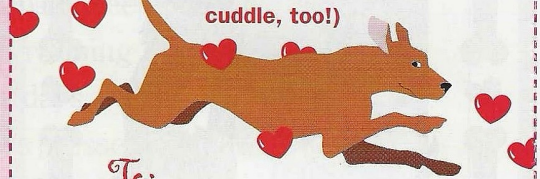
HUG ME

LOVE YOU

Gently tear out this page along the dotted line at the right.

Use scissors to cut out the coupons.

I love your dog as much as I love you! Good for a walk around the block. (And maybe a cuddle, too!)



To:

From:

Let me count the ways!

1 2 3 4 5

Present this coupon, and I'll tell you five ways you've touched my heart.

To:

From:

Good for one mini makeover.

I'll do your hair and paint your nails!

To: Tamara

From: Katie

Good for one indoor picnic, prepared by me! (Ants not included.)

To:

From:

I'll flutter my eyelashes against your cheek for one special butterfly kiss.

To:

From:

ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

This coupon is good for a giggle or two.

Present it to me for one super-funny joke!

To:

From:

HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

I need major help. I was passing a note to a friend that had something bad about the teacher written in it. My teacher picked it up, and now my life is a mess.

Teacher's pest

A note got you into trouble—another note might help get you out of it. Write your teacher a letter apologizing for what was in the note. Then show you're truly sorry by being on your best behavior in class. Eventually your teacher will forgive you. Next time, don't write anything in a note that you wouldn't want the whole class—including the teacher—to read.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My best friend is known to be the smartest kid in school. She's pretty and wears cool clothes. Last week our school had a contest where the best song, poem, or essay would win ten dollars. Of course, she won! She has everything!

Don't mean to be mean!

Your friend sounds great. But she must think *you're* pretty great, too, or she wouldn't be your friend. So get out of your mean mood by thinking about why she likes you. Do you tell great jokes? Are you a good listener? Just plain fun to be with? Don't let your jealousy wreck what makes *you* special.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My friend's parents have been divorced for two years. My friend talks about it casually, but when she brings it up, I feel weird. What should I do the next time she has to remind me that her mom's last name is different from hers?

Mixed-up in Maryland

For you, divorce may seem strange, but for your friend (and for lots of girls), it's simply life. It's great that your friend feels so comfortable talking about it. Now it's up to you to follow her lead. To learn her mom's last name, try this: practice saying it to yourself until it sounds natural, then use it in front of your friend. She'll appreciate the effort you've made!

★

Dear *American Girl*,

For my birthday, a girl gave me half of a "Best Friends" necklace, but she's *not* my best friend. I don't want to say, "You're not my best friend." What can I do?

Don't want to lose a friend

The big problem with having a best friend is that it automatically means your other friends somehow aren't as special. There's no need to tell this girl—or anyone else, for that matter—the name of your best friend. So put the necklace away, and if she asks about it, say, "I'm glad we're friends, but I have other close friends, too, and I don't want to hurt their feelings by wearing it." Your friend may not be happy, but she'll probably understand. One last thought: friendships usually work better when you don't focus on who's "best."

Illustrations: Scott Nash

MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

My only friend is my dog. No one seems to need an extra friend tagging along, even though I'm trustworthy and kind. I'm a little more mature than most kids my age. I wish there was someone out there like me.

Too Different

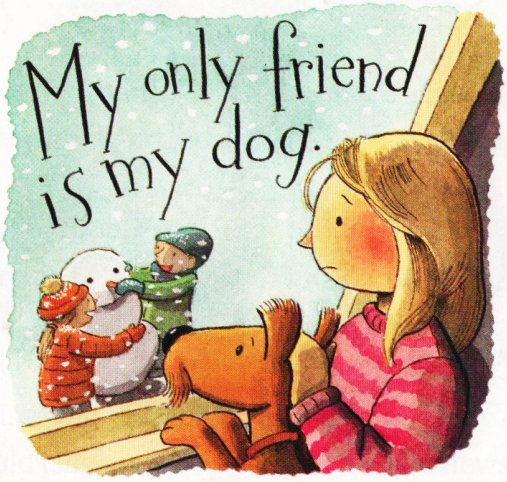
Chances are there are lots of girls like you. But how do you find them? Get involved in something you love. Think about volunteering for a cause you believe in, and you'll meet other kids who feel the same way. When you see someone who looks like she could be a friend, it's up to you to start a conversation. Smile, speak up, and be brave. Your dog can help, too! Take her for lots of walks, and if she's friendly, let kids pet her. Who knows how many dog lovers you'll meet along the way?

★

Dear *American Girl*,

I *love* to sing, but my whole family gets annoyed because I do it so often. What should I do?

A Worried Nightingale



Even the most beautiful song is nothing but noise if it's sung at the wrong time. Singing in the shower is O.K., but singing while someone is talking on the phone is not. So stick to singing when you're by yourself. Also, why not join a school or church singing group? You'll be able to flock with other songbirds who'll *want* you to sing your heart out!

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My brother just became a dad. I love his daughter, but I'm afraid he won't like *me* as much. Is it O.K. to be a little jealous?

Aunt

It's totally normal to be a little bit jealous of your new niece. She'll be getting tons of attention from your brother, and it may seem as if he doesn't care as much about you. But having less time for you does *not* mean your brother has less love for you. Your brother's daughter will never replace you as a sister. So relax and enjoy your new niece. When your brother sees what a great aunt you are, he'll love you even more.

★

Advice from You

"If you get a low grade on a paper, don't wait until the last minute to have your parents sign it. Instead, show it to them right away and discuss what you can do so you won't make the same mistakes next time. Your parents might still be upset, but at least they'll know you're responsible."

Anna Williams
Age 12, Michigan

Need advice? Got advice? Write:

Help!

AmericanGirl

8400 Fairway Place

Middleton, WI 53562

Shining Star

Photo: Dave Anfson

Brita Thomas (bottom right) wondered why her friend always sat on the sidelines during gym class. Then one day the Minnesota 12-year-old saw that her friend's shoes were too worn for class. "There was a big hole in them, and her toe was sticking out," Brita explains. Brita decided she could solve this problem on her own. She asked her mom if she could use her allowance to buy the girl a new pair of shoes. Mom agreed, and they bought the shoes.

Brita and her mom thought that if one girl needed gym shoes, lots of other kids probably needed them, too. But when the Thomases talked to school officials, they were surprised to find out that thousands of kids in the area were in the same situation as Brita's friend. Brita told her 4-H group about the problem—and that's how Happy Feet began.

Brita, Mary Valenzuela (bottom left), Bobbi Jo Dahnke (top), and their 4-H friends work hard to let people know about their project. They've talked about Happy Feet in newspapers, on the radio, and even on TV. People in the community often donate money when they hear about Happy Feet, but Brita and the other volunteers write special letters asking companies and organizations to give money, too. The kids even do their own shoe shopping. So far, Happy Feet has raised more than $25,000 and provided more than 1,600 new pairs of shoes to kids in need! All that hard work makes Brita a "shoe-in" for Shining Star. To find out how you can help, visit www.4hhappyfeet.com.

Do you have a friend who really shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and AG will donate $500 to her cause.

#BXNBDYL ********CAR-RT SORT**R-012

Can't wait for your next issue? Visit www.americangirl.com for lots more fun! Test your school smarts and adopt a pet on the Net!

AmericanGirl®

Take a peek at what's coming up in the March/April issue

Sew Cute!
Sweet little bags you can make

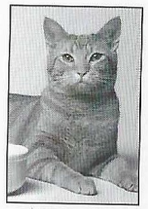
Rah, Rah!
Forget cheering at games—for these girls, cheerleading *is* the sport!

Funny Phonies
Bake a batch of food fakes for April Fools'

How Did They Do It?
Girls achieve great things—and tell how you can, too!

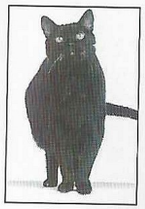
Photo: Mike Walker

FAMOUS FELINES



MORRIS: the lovable orange tabby spokescat for 9-Lives cat food

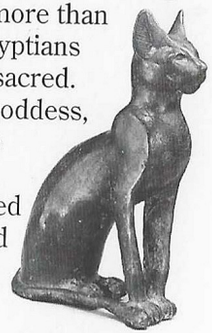
SOCKS: the nation's "first cat," who has enjoyed a life of luxury at the White House

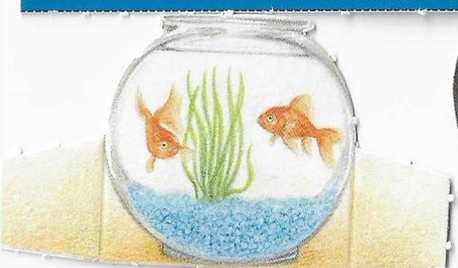


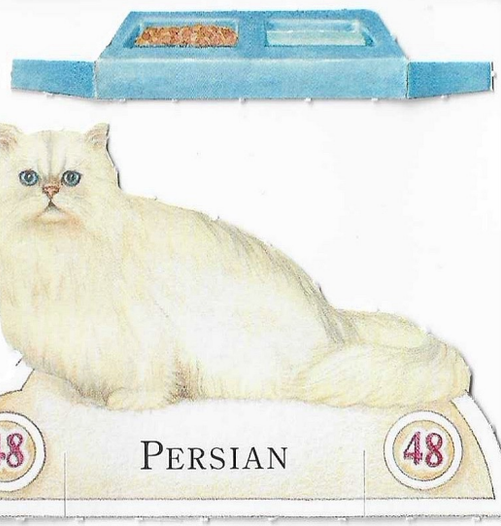
SALEM: the magical cat who lives with Sabrina, the Teenage Witch

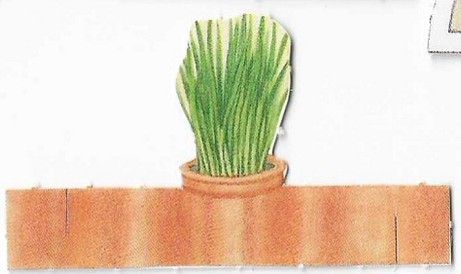
PYRAMID PETS

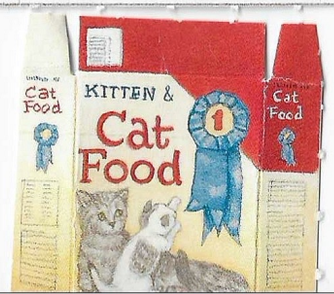
No one is quite sure when people started keeping cats as pets, but the ancient Egyptians were among the first cat-lovers more than 5,500 years ago! Egyptians believed cats were sacred. They worshiped a goddess, Bastet, who had the head of a cat. And they even mummified their cats and buried them in their own special tombs.

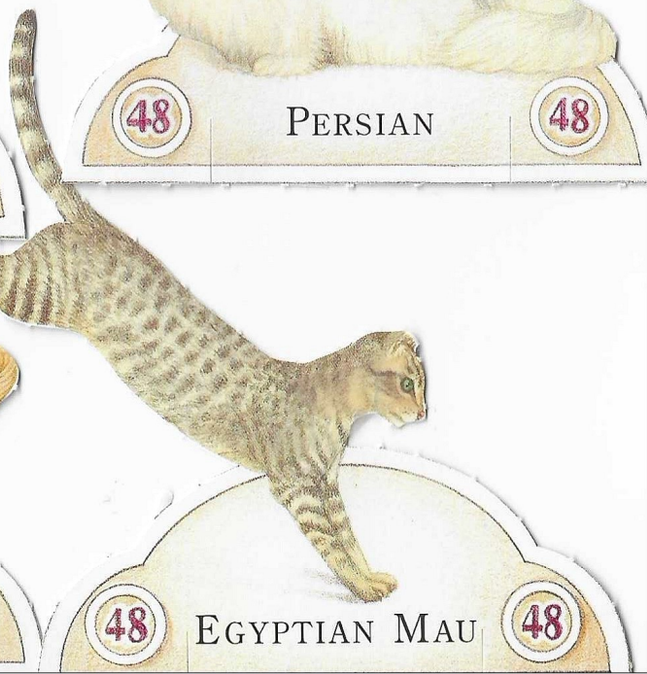










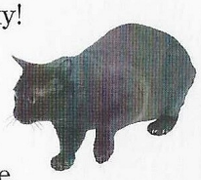


Cat Calamity!

From about 500 to 1500 A.D., many Europeans connected cats with witchcraft and evil. Cats were not popular as household pets. People even killed cats out of fear. But when the bubonic plague came during the 1300s, there weren't many cats around to kill the rats that spread the disease. About one-quarter of the people in Europe died from the plague.

Cat Superstitions

- In the United States, legend has it that black cats bring bad luck. But in most of the world, black cats are thought to be lucky!
- Some sailors believe having cats on board brings good luck.



- Cats don't really have nine lives, as the old saying goes, but cats survive falls, fights, and disasters so well, it can seem as if they live forever.

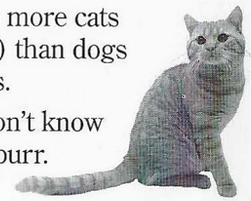
This Book Belongs To:

_____

An American Girl

Cat Stats

- At night or in dim light, cats can see about six times better than humans.
- Cats sleep for about 16 hours a day.
- Cats use their tails to twist in the air and land on their feet when they fall.
- Some cats have six toes on each foot.
- Americans keep more cats (about 70 million!) than dogs as household pets.
- Scientists still don't know exactly how cats purr.



Fold in sides to make dish stand up.

Persian

Coat: long, luxurious fur in many colors and patterns
Body: compact and muscular
Face: large and round with a pushed-in nose
Fun Fact: Persians are the most popular cat breed in the world.

Maine Coon

Coat: long, silky fur in many colors and patterns
Body: large, solid, and strong
Face: full and wide with large tufted ears
Fun Fact: Legend has it that Maine coon cats are related to bobcats.

Siamese

Coat: short, fine white or cream fur that darkens to gray or brown "points" on the paws, ears, face, and tail
Body: long and sleek
Face: triangular with large ears and blue eyes
Fun Fact: Siamese are known for their loud meow.

Fold in sides to make fishbowl stand up.

Domestic Shorthair

Domestic shorthairs are not purebred cats, so they come in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. Calicos like this mother cat are white with distinct patches of orange and black

Egyptian Mau

Coat: spotted, in bronze and silver
Body: slender and sleek with graceful legs
Face: slightly rounded with alert green eyes
Fun Fact: Mau means "cat" in Egyptian.

Domestic Shorthair Kittens

When kittens are first born, their eyes and ears are sealed shut. By the time they're ten days old, though, their eyes and ears are opening, and they're beginning to crawl around. Kittens in the same litter can look completely different from one another.

Cats love to munch cat grass.

Roll in sides and connect at slits to make cat grass stand up.

Fold in sides and glue tabs under box top to make cat food stand up.

Your paper cats will love this pop-out cat tree. Pop out the box of food, the food and water dish, the cat toys, and the cat grass, too. You and your paper cats will have a hair-raising good time!